ABC NEWS - ELECTION NIGHT 2000 - 12:00 A.M E.T - 4:58 A.M E.T (11-8-2000)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8)

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From Wednesday, November 8th, 2000 ABC NEWS LIVE COVERAGE of Election Night 2000 with Peter Jennings.

- Republican: TX Governor George W. Bush - 271 Electoral Votes/50,456,002 Popular Votes
- Democrat : Vice President Al Gore - 267 Electoral Vote/ 50,999,897 Popular Votes

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[Music] [Applause] [Music] this is an abc news special the 2000 vote now reporting peter jennings [Music] well it's one o'clock in the eastern united states three hours difference in the west coast as everybody knows and we are getting down to just like the political parties at this moment grasping at tiny straws to see which way the wind actually may be blowing but as far as we're concerned there is still no change mr gore mr bush each have 242 electoral votes and the outstanding too close to call states are oregon and nevada iowa wisconsin and florida there's a real donnybrook going on in florida about the outstanding ballots yet to be counted the democrats say that the outstanding votes yet to be counted are in palm beach and in broward counties which are strongly democratic in miami-dade county where they believe that they and the republicans will split it and that they think there are still some votes outstanding in the panhandle the upper part of the state there which they recognize is strongly republican the republicans come at it pretty much the same way the republicans say that the same areas are indeed outstanding palm beach and broward counties and miami-dade but they argue that it's more than some which are outstanding from the panel handle they claim that they're actually a hundred thousand votes ahead right now i think our popular vote total in florida actually shows them that's the panel up around tallahassee up there we actually i think show the popular count having mr bush about 70 000 votes ahead at the moment but republicans claim that miami dade would indeed be awash now abc news is also able now to project in a more definitive

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able now to project in a more definitive way cokey that perhaps you'd like to take it cookie rubber to take the house the house of representatives the abc news is ready to call the house of representatives for the republicans the republicans keep the house of representatives democrats should pick up somewhere between two and five seats but the republicans retain control of the house right now we're counting 205 democratic members 216 republican members 218 are needed for control and and so we have we have a very close race there but republicans will keep it okay thanks cokey just one other thing about the absentee ballots in florida they will be counted all of our staff reporting in now uh county by county just the way regular ballots tonight are counted the only difference will be the overseas ballots which only had to be postmarked today and nationally of course they had to be in by 7 p.m today we'll be back in about 10 seconds as stations join us along the country [Music] now wisconsin is still outstanding so let's go to our exit poll corner and ask lynn shure about one particular group catholics in wisconsin yes peter white catholics a very important swing voter group this year as they have been in the past representing 40 percent of the voting population in wisconsin today how did they vote let's take a look white catholics in wisconsin take a look at this 49 for george bush 49 for al gore right down the middle that's why it's so close okay thanks very much now we did

talk a little bit earlier about mr bush having the support of tommy thompson governor thompson's political machine in wisconsin but also in wisconsin mr gore uh had the support of the powerful teachers unions in the state and as i said a little earlier in all of

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and as i said a little earlier in all of these two close to call states now by our computer estimation by our computer modeling at the moment we reckon there is about less than two tenths of one percent uh between the candidates in all of the states which are currently too close to call florida is the big one take a look at this electoral votes remaining again uh george stephanopoulos take us through it again and and and give us the gore mountain and then the bush mountain it's exactly the same right now because it's 242 242. so whoever wins florida gets to 267 whoever wins florida then only needs to win one of the four states remaining in order to be the next president united states whoever loses florida obviously would have to sweep the table to get a win so if mr gore got floor he'd only get for example need to get nevada and he'd get to 271. he'd get the 271 and nevada is a bit of a tough state for al gore probably he might have a better chance say in iowa with um seven seven electoral votes who get them up to 273. george what surprised me a little bit at the moment maybe this was just all the advanced publicity was how close the popular vote is on a national basis now i don't know how many overall precincts we're still counting but it's very very close it's very close and you know if you look at all the polls you know there was a lot of criticism of the polls bouncing around but for example if you look at our abc poll uh coming in tonight it was basically averaging out at 48 to 45. um over the last 20 days with the margin of error that perfectly encompasses a one point uh difference a three point difference a five point difference so the polls at least our polls so far is capturing about where the the race ended up i realized we're all now trying to read thank you george into every state now exactly what we see in the exit polls but here's another from gary langer uh who runs with great efficiency our polling unit um on this question of whether the country is on the right track he says 65 percent think the country is on the right track and 31 percent think it's going in the wrong direction 65 right 31

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going in the wrong direction 65 right 31 wrong but in terms of its moral climate we find from the exit polls that 39 think the moral climate is on the right track strange question to ask about moral climate and in the wrong direction going 57 percent lyncher tell us what else you're looking at now without even necessarily having to give us a model of something what are you frantically trying to look at to try to get a handle on this as it turns out i do have something to show you peter um this is this is one of the questions we asked all across the country we asked people what was the reason for their vote and we asked there were a number of answers they could have given there are a number of different categories the particular area i'm talking about is what was the reason for their vote apropos of president clinton and was there something about the president that they liked or didn't like for example we asked if their vote was to show support for the president to show opposition to him or if there was no factor at all let's take a look at the numbers let's see if we have them available when we ask this question was this to show support for the president 10 percent said yes was it to show opposition to the president 17 said yes finally was there no factor at all 70 percent said yes well leave those numbers on there and i want to explain to you that the 10 obviously voted heavily for gore uh the 17 voted heavily for mr bush and then no factor by the way were slightly more for gore what that means though is that seven percent difference voting against mr gore in an election like this where everything is so close every single thing counts so there was a little bit of clinton factor there well let me ask mark howell should this one those last figures because they were going by there mark you know i didn't peter because i'm actually working on what we're now increasingly interested in which is what the election laws are in florida how they count the vote okay well let me come back to you one second because that's extremely important but george we're looking at the 70 that's about equal

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equal a little higher than mr clinton's job performance well this has been the conundrum all year long president clinton has had some of the highest job approval ratings ever of a two-term president between 60 and 70 percent and some of the lowest personal approval ratings uh of of a president at this stage of this term around 30 35 percent and i have to say peter the clinton and gore camps if vice president gore does not win tonight are going to be looking very closely at exit poll numbers like that because there's been a great debate over the last several weeks and months did the gore campaign use clinton enough or the gore campaign would argue no we were held back by clinton fatigue and they're going to read all the tea leaves as they try to understand this election because the clinton feeding is simply not there to the evident degree that many people thought it was going to be that's one question and it may be very close right and another question they'll look at for example is and i don't know what our exit polls show on this yet but the number of people who were satisfied with clinton's policies but disapproved of clinton personally how did they break that'll be another one that number they'll look at and it broke differently on the coast of the country than it did in the center of the country um yes the coasts have generally been much more supportive of president clinton new york and california tougher time in the midwest let me go back to exit poll corner again then lynn because this question of honesty and character has come up many times what's the latest on that the number one quality cited around the country by people when we said what was the most important quality in your choice of a candidate today the number one quality was honest and trustworthy the man should be honest and trustworthy how did they vote let's take a look those who said that was important 78 percent voting for george bush today 16 for al gore now let me just point out that the number two issue on the list was experience and al gore won that by exactly the same majority as george bush won the one the honesty one very close can we put the honesty one back up again because i could see george leaping to talk about that george a couple of things not least of all a very successful bush

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not least of all a very successful bush campaign on that issue and an awful lot of talk about it in the media a lot of talk about the the gore exaggerations you know and the bush campaign was very skillful particularly after that first debate to to put the onus on gore when he talked about going to texas and meeting with the head of the federal emergency management commission and he hadn't done that but you know a few days ago i was talking to a very smart gore strategist who kind of explained to me how the pro the problems came together he said that and they say they were held back on this issue of honesty the whole campaign they say gore's little lies remind voters of clinton's big ones the two issues collide and that hurts them exactly on this subject of clinton fatigue let's go very briefly to our white house correspondent john cochran who's been very patiently waiting out the night in washington john's second guessing even at this stage on whether or not mr clinton should have campaigned more for mr gore sure bill clinton not happy had not been called on more bill clinton also second guessing al gore himself not many people noticed it peter but last week when bill clinton was campaigning in california one of the few states where al gore said yes you can go there because in california even swing voters like bill clinton the president said you know voters don't seem to be getting this message of peace and prosperity they don't seem to understand what is at stake that was an indirect slap at al gore for not making his message clearer didn't help very much when he said mr gore was the next best choice no it didn't okay and the court didn't appreciate i promise john will come back at least one more time we'll be back right after this tonight democracy meets the information age as peter jennings and abc news let you interact live with abc's election 2000 log on to abcnews.com now and click on the enhanced tv logo for real-time interactive television let your voice be heard on abc's and hence tv abc 2 [Music] this abc news special the 2000 vote continues once again peter jennings welcome back to our coverage it is still too close to calling on how many times he said that this evening oregon oregon nevada iowa wisconsin and florida

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oregon nevada iowa wisconsin and florida and mark halperin let me ask you first about florida we left you when you were looking at florida election law i forgot about that i dared our colleagues are making lots of calls down there we know several things now about how the vote works there first of all there's an automatic recount in any race where the for the distance between the first and second place finisher is one half of one

percent that's still not impossible if you don't have that situation parties can go into court and try to ask for a recount we also know from one election official we're trying to confirm this that they plan to stop counting the vote in all the different counties where they count this at 2 30 a.m eastern time this morning take a little break until 8 a.m and start counting again now we'll see maybe some places they'll be done by then and we're trying to get that from another election official but that's a possibility and that's another hour and 15 minutes that's right and the country would wait while these people took a rest um you know we talked to both campaigns in both parties in advance of the election we said what will you do in case this exact situation comes up where there's a questionable result or two or three and they said they'd have squadrons of lawyers in washington and elsewhere ready to get on planes the next morning like aviation investigators after an accident to hit that state neither campaign wants to talk about that now but i suspect and more than suspected quietly uh the campaigns will say yes of course we have to look at that as an option we saw how ready at least democratic lawyers were early this evening when they moved quickly to try to keep polls open in a variety of states in the midwest and the west pretty much the same group of lawyers very aggressive tonight and again i think we may face a situation where the winning candidate whoever's declared the winner will try to intimidate the loser out of mounting a legal challenge we'll try to play on the notion that the country needs a president the inauguration is just a few months away and that will be very interesting gamesmanship i think if the loser decides to make that challenge well first i want to pay enormous compliments to all of my colleagues for their perspicacity and wisdom this evening but but also we should use two fresh voices if i may at the moment on this subject uh this is katrina vandenheuvel who's the editor of the nation excuse me and richard lowry known as rich as the editor of the national review on this point of a loser trying to

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on this point of a loser trying to intimidate a winner likely go down well with the american public uh i don't think so i think people uh are i mean this election has been going on a long time i think people are ready to move on and though we may face a uh republican all republican government for the first time since 1953-54 i think even um liberals are ready to you know start fighting in washington and i think all this talk of unifying which uh bush has run on is going to come hard up against a brick wall of trent lot and all of the people who are going to come out of the cellar or attic where mr bush has kept them for the uh but you wouldn't argue in the pages of your magazine that a legal challenge should be mounted by one side or the other if it came down to this no i think people uh are sick of litigious struggles and are ready to see a little governance even if it's going to be a gridlock situation in washington rich law the same question tree would you argue in the pages of your magazine that a legal challenge should be mounted no absolutely not and we've seen examples of this in house and senate races that are extremely close and one candidate alleges voter fraud or some sort of wrongdoing and that that loser always gets hit with the sour grapes charge and it always hurts and that's why peter when you've asked democrats tonight whether they consider a legal challenge they're not going to touch that one with a 10-foot poll and i think there's a reason for that and you you'd agree to that notion if it went the other way what are your overall you've been sitting very patiently we're very glad to have your company you've been sitting very patiently watching this as you've watched it unfold what have you been thinking about well it's extraordinary i mean one is just a great spectacle and we won't see another one like this for another 20 years or so but if bush pulls this out i think one of the the uh most important factors in this election is that bill clinton had a lot of faults i can go on for 20 minutes fill a lot of air time talking about his faults if you like but the the great thing that he did was reoriented the democratic party in a more centrist direction and the thing that might be crucial about this election is that al gore may have kicked away

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is that al gore may have kicked away that most important political legacy that bill clinton had bequeathed to him and that's something that should have republicans if they win tomorrow breathing a great sigh of relief there's going to be a lot of blaming al gore blaming bill clinton blaming populism but this is going to be a jolt to the centrist democratic leadership which has moved this party to the center now ralph nader you talked about him earlier uh the nation thinks he should have run a different campaign not dropping out but a third way not contesting these swing states it's very close every vote is going to count there will be some

discussion in the liberal progressive community about what ralph nader cost but he does speak to those liberal progressives who feel they've been left out of a party a democratic party that's moved to the center katrina i'm one of those who believes that ralph nader should have the right to run you can run when you want to run people show up to vote for you were you impressed with the the emphasis in the democratic party trying to get nader out uh i think this is this uh that he should be allowed of course he should be allowed to run this is a democracy you know it didn't sound like it for a while no but i think the strategy would have been and i think he would have had more goodwill because if you look at these polls tonight you'll find that 75 of the nader vote in the end went to gore with you know error errors of margin margins of error so i think he might have even done better than the two three three and a half percent he's going to end up with uh and gotten to that five percent and gotten matching funds if he had stayed out of these swing states and really just entered the debate your argument is that he created a divisiveness and people went back to gore do you agree right no a couple points here one i i think it's unsustainable to blame gore's loss if he does lose on new democrats i mean he very clearly ran to clinton's left remember in 92 one of the key issues that identified clinton as a new democrat was free trade that's a crucial part of the clinton legacy that's why one of the reasons we've had such a strong economy those trade agreements were in effect huge global tax cuts al gore i'm not sure whether he ever had the phrase free trade crossed his lips that's because he had pandered to his union base now point on ralph nader you know tomorrow morning a lot of

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know tomorrow morning a lot of conservatives probably will want to reevaluate their long-standing feelings towards ralph nader but this is the important thing about nader he was an expression of serious honest liberals disgust with bill clinton with the sellouts of liberal issues and with the personal scandals okay i don't want anyone to go away because we've been in this little conversation sort of putting mr gore away may still be the case that mr bush gets put away in these remaining states but we're going to cut away to our local news now for local races all around the country and we will be back thanks for staying with us [Music] this is an abc news special the 2000 vote now reporting from new york peter jennings [Music] just about to run you down the five states that are still too close to call except we're able to call one of them abc news now projection in the state of nevada governor george bush is the winner for electoral votes and i think if i go straight away to george stephanopoulos you're going to tell me that doesn't make a lot of difference at the moment well it actually does okay a minute ago i thought the other one right right now it means that al gore basically has got to win florida he cannot be president united states if he does not win florida george w bush could still run the table of oregon iowa and wisconsin become president al gore has to win florida okay so just to run the others very quickly oregon is still too close to call iowa wisconsin and as george said florida let's quickly check in in the two cities where the campaign headquarters are tonight i i don't know this this is some kind of poetry at the moment but in both austin texas and in nashville tennessee at the moment it is raining in both places let's go first to austin texas

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first to austin texas and abc's dean reynolds dean well peter it's a cloud burst here but you know bush prevails i'm sure they'll think it's a perfect storm the bush people are already talking about how if the governor wins their strategy of concentrating on some of the smaller states like west virginia arkansas tennessee will be vindicated as well as their strategy of devoting a great deal of attention to california not that they want it but that they forced vice president gore to devote a great deal of time and effort and money to that state that he could have directed at other states which have now gone against him dean there's been a huge crowd there for the beginning of the evening is it the same people or people come and gone now it's basically the same folks they're diehards they came with their umbrellas and uh now they may need some rafts okay thanks very much we'll come back to you before long we're going to go to nashville tennessee now where abc's terry moran is standing by also in the rain terry well peter the skies have opened here it seems like it's calming down just a little bit and for once the cliche holds true the tension is so thick here you could cut it with a knife a little while ago they had some musical entertainment here uh it may be some kind of omen that at one point they played the disco classic i believe in miracles by the immortal hot chocolate but long since

they've just been watching the returns like everybody else this is a very typical al gore crowd in a way i've noticed since i've been following him in january that he does not draw crowds which are filled with enthusiasm so much as determination and this is an anxious but determined crowd okay thanks very much terry brings us back to our desk here at times square in new york to talk to katrina vandenberg who's the editor of the nation again and rich lowry who's the editor of the national review we were talking in the break there a little bit about the media do you think the media has played what sort of a role in this campaign and in this night well i think in the campaign that

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night well i think in the campaign that uh the media to some extent allowed the republicans to write the script that it became about likability and not uh issues and it allowed uh the script to be that gore was the fabulous and bush was going to bring a new era to washington and allowed bush to blur blur blur and um katrina haven't most studies actually shown that this has been quite cyclical that in fact the media in general has been nice to mr bush and then nice to mr goer and back to mr bush and back to mr gore i think there's recent surveys show that it allowed bush to run a stealth campaign where the issues weren't explored and that it allowed bush to talk about social security as you know we don't want this as a federal program or it allowed him to talk about you know american peacekeeping troops and kosovo but gore ended up being painted as the real fabulous when that wasn't the case are you one of those who believe that when mr gore took up that last ad implying that mr bush did not know social security was a federal program that mr bush really didn't know no but i think it the media allowed the campaign to be played out on the character issue likability when there were real issues at stake here not as many as i would like because there should be more differences between a democrat and republican but we now enter into a period where i think uh bush won't have a mandate because he he not only play blurred but he enters washington at a time when it's going to be a very tight government and he doesn't have a mandate to do some of these programs because in some sense the media didn't elucidate the issues or he and he didn't in terms of so if mr bush wins tonight rich lowry he certainly has a mandate given that the house and the senate are now going to be held by the republicans yeah i mean it's it's a it's a close election um but um so there's a danger in over interpreting it but for a year straight it's going to be a long night okay we'll start the over interpreting um but look he's run for a year solid on four or five ideas and what we saw in texas he ran in three or three or four ideas and then went about very determined determinably

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went about very determined determinably making them happen and i think that's what he's going to try to do here and the fact is is that gore managed to associate himself with the worst aspects of the status quo opposing any reform of entitlements opposing serious education reform opposing military reform while not associating himself seriously enough with the best parts of the status quo which uh is the economy and in many ways bush is the more reformist i'm going to use a word that's going to make you grind your teeth but in a lot of ways a more progressive candidate you know his social security reform idea fundamentally wants to make it possible for janitors and maids in this country to have their own assets and retire as millionaires that is an extraordinary uh idea and a very bold idea and a politically courageous idea but to let that pass i mean if you look at these proposals what bush is talking about is a redistribution of wealth to the top one to five percent of the wealthy in this country and that that was allowed to be painted as class warfare by bush without a real examination of what he was talking about when the class warfare has been redistribution toward the wealthy and away from the uh the working poor in this country suggests that one needs a fact squad at every point let me stop you both for a second to go to lynn sure in our exit poll corner here to see how people did feel in the exit polls tonight about these principal issues lynn peter uh there are three very important issues that the candidates campaigned on we want to show you exactly how the voters felt about them tonight let's take them one at a time first of all how should the federal government help seniors pay for prescription drugs public 57 private 36 percent score that one for al gore next we asked whose tax plan they

thought was better targeted plan mr gore across the board mr bush you can see the answer is they like the bush plan score one for mr bush finally we asked about social security how did they feel about investing social security some social security money in private funds there you see it 57

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in private funds there you see it 57 yes score another one for george bush peter uh katrina richie get one sentence each on this it seems to me the public picked up pretty much what either both men were driving at on the social security i would simply say that the media to a large extent has painted a false crisis in social security so you build in that into a campaign and there's no real outside you can't plausibly argue that the media has favored george bush and favored his ideas in this campaign i mean that is just ridiculous and he he this was you know bush went out there every day in the campaign trail and said i am grasping the third rail in american politics and that's because if i get elected i actually want to do something i don't just want to hold the office now that's an extraordinary thing for a politician to say and it sounds like spin but i think he really meant it was a tremendous political risk in the last two weeks of the campaign gore's ads hammered him on that relentlessly and it looks as though he may have survived let you have the next laughter next go around okay we'll be right back after this excuse me take the abc news american election challenge what was the first presidential team ever elected that had never served in the military franklin roosevelt and henry wallace bill clinton and al gore richard nixon and spiro agnew rutherford hayes and william wheeler in a moment the answer answer to the abc news american challenge who was the first presidential team ever elected that had never served in the military is franklin roosevelt and henry wallace in 1940 once again peter jennings well we've used every imaginable phrase this evening for too close to call we've told you about our computer models which say that at this point maybe the difference between the two men is less than two tenths of one percent the easiest and clearest way at the moment is to look at the raw popular vote as it's coming in uh from the various precincts in the various states and let's go to florida with ninety four percent of the precincts reporting there is only twenty thousand votes there are only twenty thousand votes

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there are only twenty thousand votes between mr gore and mr bush now let's have a look at wisconsin in wisconsin with eighty four percent of the precincts reporting nine thousand votes between the two of them forty eight thousand votes each now let's go to iowa and look at the popular vote there uh with 96 percent of the precincts reporting i'm just doing very rough math and i look for the first time about six thousand votes between the two men if i got that right 6 000 votes between these two men it's amazing in iowa so now let's go back to florida put up the florida popular vote again because i have on the telephone from florida the director of the florida state division of elections mr clay roberts mr roberts can you hear me yes i can what's going on down there uh well the the supervisors of elections and the 67 counties in florida are uh most of them are done but the remainder are busily uh counting and tabulating the ballots uh uh this is a you know in a in a county like miami-dade that has uh over a million voters and that spreads over a lot of real estate it takes a long time to get the ballots uh the central count facility and then to feed them all through the machine and to go through all the security procedures you have to and to do the tabulation so as best you can tell has there been anything untoward this evening no i don't think so i uh the the ending time of this election will be consistent with what we've had in the primaries and in other elections i talked to miami-dade about half an hour ago and they said that they'd be finished about 2 30 and uh that that's consistent where when they finished in the primaries in the primary election miami didn't finish till 3 30. uh they had a little weather problem that time so it it kept them about an hour longer than normal now is it true as i'd actually heard a little earlier that in florida you might actually stop counting at 2 30 eastern time and come back in the morning no i'm i'm gonna be here to wear that okay now there was some thought earlier

00:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=1800s)

okay now there was some thought earlier about missing ballots uh yeah i heard that story and i talked to the broward county of supervisor of elections jane carroll and she said that those ballots were never missing they were always in the custody of an elections official and they were always where they should be uh the 14 boxes were in transit between the precinct and the supervisor's office but but they were not unaccounted for they were not uh out of supervision at any time now have some counties already counted their absentee ballots yes uh the the counties that we report on our website that are showing 100 percent they're done i i apologize i haven't got immediate access to your website can you tell me how many counties have counted their absentee ballots a majority a minority a majority have most of them are done we are waiting for we're waiting for the results to come in in broward escambia glades hillsborough miami-dade nassau palm beach county okeechobee county sumpter county uh union county and volusia county the remainder of the 67 counties in the state of florida are completely done counting all of their increasing ballots and their absentee ballot now there's one other issue and that is absentee ballots overseas they have to be postmarked on the seventh but when do you count them uh they have up to ten days after the election to arrive in the office and in 1996 we had about 2 300 of those overseas 10 day ballots that came in and counted so i uh you know that that would be a number that you would look at if you're competing so which we're making difference so 2300 absentee ballots overseas if everything else were to be counted tonight is in your best estimation what the outstanding differences might be uh that was our outstanding difference in uh in 96 so that that's a good estimate for what we could have this year okay anything else down there what's it been like is the night have been people

[00:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=1920s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=1920s)

been like is the night have been people crazed about this people calling you all the time and telling me you got to get this done faster well i have a lot of people calling saying well what can you do to make the supervisors act faster and when i call the supervisors they say i can act faster if you'd quit calling me on the basis very good point and i'll let you go immediately but um just one other question there's been some talk about challenging the vote in florida today have you seen anything in the course of today in any form in the way you've tabulated and counted the vote that what might give rise to a legal challenge i don't think so you know anytime an election you know uh especially a close one uh people are finally attuned to anything they think may be amiss but but overall throughout the state i think it was a pretty well run election and i think it would stand up to a challenge okay thank you very much mr roberts appreciate it you've enlightened us uh in very useful ways our preliminary turnout estimate overall for today all the way across the country is up slightly from nineteen ninety six all of these notions that the trend has been going down can be challenged in a variety of ways and have by some very good scholars this year but our preliminary turnout estimate for today is it is up slightly from nineteen ninety six we'll be back to talk to a couple of correspondents who cover mr gore mr bush talk to george stephanopoulos our two editors here who have to go very soon and write the headline for tomorrow we'll ask him what it's going to be hope you'll stay with us abc news live coverage of the 2000 vote will continue in a moment [Music] the 2000 vote continues live from new york once again peter jennings several of our colleagues from other news agencies are distinctly on deadline now one of them is pamela edwards who covers the gore campaign for time magazine so i want to go very quickly to nashville tennessee tamala pamela and ask you your impression of the day and what you'll write in the morning well i mean that's an interesting question we still don't know uh the thing that stands out to me at this point

[00:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2040s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2040s)

point is about eight o'clock central time when florida had been put into the gore column there are a lot of people in the lobby they were not yet elated but you could tell that they thought the night was going to go their way new mexico had been called for gore and then all of a sudden it was yanked back and you all of a sudden saw no more gore staff in the lobby and i'm told now that there's family in one room that there's staff in another room and they're just holding on and nervously waiting much like their press corps and you've been on this campaign for a long time you leave it with what enormous impression you know it's been down to the wire i think all along there were a lot of people who wanted to say it was bush it was bush that gore was going to not be able to come back but i always felt like we would be pretty much here tonight but when

al gore would say in the last week it could come down to the last vote in one precinct that the first meal that he might eat as president would be breakfast we thought he was joking it's no longer so funny we think he meant it the eternal work ethic for mr gore um knowing him as you've got to know him in the course of this campaign and i do not mean to project anything here but if mr gore were to lose based on your knowledge of him or the last few months how do you think he'll take it well i mean i think outwardly he would be gracious i'm sure as he's sitting in that hotel room tonight realizing that it comes down to a handful of votes that that's something that he's got to be thinking about he probably will think back to 30 years ago and another tough election which was his father losing here in the state of tennessee and then i think it's tomorrow is it's as you look back and you realize that you were so close one can make the argument that sometimes it's better to lose and lose badly to say there was no way this is the kind of election that you'll play over and over again in your mind and second guess probably for a very long time okay tamala thank you very much indeed for joining us sorry we kept you up so late you've got a deadline and so do my two editors here so let me ask you both katrina van der hooman you're going to go on right now what's your headline um don't have a headline but one possibility is out of control something that hasn't come up tonight you talked about turnout being up what's really up is the money that has poured into this election this election is going to cost something like 3 billion

00:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2160s)

something like 3 billion and you still have a majority of voters in this country uh majority or non are non-voters what does that say about our system that so many aren't involved or disenfranchised aren't voting aren't turned on it's great to see people at polls today but a lot of people cut out of the system actually we talked about the money quite a lot earlier in the evening um and the conclusion was that in terms of campaign finance reform it isn't in the cards it is in the cards in the states they're two initiatives and i know you've been talking about initiatives in missouri and oregon clean money and you know what can we expect from a gore administration uh one thing that will be up there though it may face republican opposition which it has for the last few years is mccain feingold and real campaign finance reform but it's going to come from the states to washington um and that's where the energy is going to take a while rich larry what are you going to write when you go away well we're hoping our headline will be thank goodness for input errors which may just pull this thing out for bush but obviously have no idea what the headline is but if bush wins we'll go about doing our business which is advocating for the ideas that animated his campaign which i think is reform in washington and limited government and those those are things very close to the mission of our magazine do you both believe that limited government has now taken hold again katrina i think uh you know small government is always with us but the issues were with gore and i think uh when you go down the list and do the substance of the issues people say they want those prescription drug benefits there's a majority who want universal health care in this country their majority of people want campaigns the referendum in massachusetts didn't succeed that's that's not necessarily true we just saw the evidence flashed up on the screen where the public preferred bush's tax plan and was attracted to the social security ideas and the fact is look it's it's not 1980 again it's not 1994 there isn't this uh really fierce anti-government sentiment out there but it's still not safe to be a big government liberal and that's the mistake that bob trum and of course people made in this election when you break it down issue by issue there's more support for a government

00:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2281s)

there's more support for a government safety net than we talk about thank you both very much i'm very grateful you stayed so late i know you have a lot of work to do trina vanderhoover rich larry thanks for having me thank you won't see you on the trail anymore we'll see you around thank you very much i want to talk now to one more reporter uh in austin texas uh who has i think probably known uh mr bush longer than most people wayne slater of the dallas morning news is with us wayne thanks for staying late into the evening just first of all give us your impressions of the night well you know who would have thought that we would have better weather in green bay wisconsin yesterday than here in austin texas but it's awfully cold it's awfully miserable there's still a crowd here and i guess all the pollsters were right this is really a very nail biter of a race wayne when i look back over your reporting of several years you've always been i think to be fair

skeptical of mr bush's candidacy are you where do you stand on that spectrum tonight well the governor himself has mounted a campaign against all odds that's his view of it he's a person who said i'm i'm challenging and incumbent i'm challenging someone at a time of economic prosperity when uh we're at peace so it's a tough road to hoe uh and he's done a fairly good job at it i think the governor emerged from the debates feeling very good i've known him for years i've known him from the very beginning of his campaign for the for the governor's office and i think what i saw in the last three weeks physically was a transformation after the debates it was as if a weight had lifted from his shoulders he was at ease on the stage and he was a much more confident guy i think any questions about his campaign and his candidacy in his mind were absolutely gone he thought at that time and i think he thought tonight i'm going to win this thing and a short while ago when i asked pamela edwards what she thought mr gore would be like if he lost you know mr bush better than most the

00:40:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2401s)

you know mr bush better than most the conventional wisdom is if he loses he'll just get on with his life do you agree with that you know he talked about this for years the last couple of years when i've talked to him he said again and again i don't need this i don't have to have this job i don't obsess about the white house and i think he really believed that a long time ago maybe one or two years ago but when you commit 17 months of your life day in and day out to the race for the presidency when you commit night after night after night in hundreds of hotel rooms and thousands of miles on the road i'm wondering how well he would take a loss tonight there's no question that economically he's fine physically he's all right and that mentally he could go on to do many other things maybe the commissioner of baseball but uh in the end i think although he once thought he wouldn't need this job didn't need to have this job at all and wouldn't be hurt if he didn't have the job i think a loss tonight would be a bitter pill for him to swallow wayne thanks very much wayne slater the dallas morning news done a terrific job of reporting this particularly from the texas point of view we've had a lot of benefits from and down through the months we'll be back to continue right after this [Music] abc news live coverage of the 2000 vote will continue in a moment okay back to george stephanopoulos i don't think we quite finished discussing on florida there the jewish vote loomed very large in florida from the very beginning particularly when it was the jewish elderly many from the east coast particularly retire down there that's right but you know we're when you look at a separate section of the florida vote so far the elderly over 60 and over 65 and there are a lot of jewish voters in the in the condos around miami and fort lauderdale bush is actually winning those 50 to 48

00:42:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2521s)

bush is actually winning those 50 to 48 or 52 to 46 they're just looking at right now so al gore despite the talk about social security despite joe lieberman on the ticket may not have done as well with that elderly population as he expected which is also a surprise because mr bush felt obliged to go into florida on any number of occasions and refer to mediscare which he regarded as mr gore's tactics on medicare and social security absolutely and the and the florida senate candidate bill mccollum as we talked about earlier advertised on the side of mr gore as well on the lock box so help me with another piece of florida we did i think see earlier in the evening along that i-4 corridor across the middle of the state from the west coast to the east that a lot of independent voters a lot of younger voters had made themselves heard does that mean they may make the difference this evening well they very well could a lot of new voters into florida the ones who came from the north down into that i-4 corridor and they were especially moved by how well the economy was doing over over this year but you have to take a step back here peter the fact that florida is this close for a democrat al gore this late in the night is pretty remarkable very good point let's go to the senate and sam donaldson sam well peter in four states the voters are making very tough for us i mean these races are just too close to call let's take a look at the states however in missouri john ashcroft the incumbent republican senator of course on the other line a man who's no longer living the governor mel carnahan his name's on the line we can't call this one yet in michigan incumbent republican senator spencer abraham hard-pressed by his democratic challenger congresswoman debbie stabenow in nebraska this is an open seat bob kerry the democratic senator is retiring voluntarily attorney general don stenberg the gop candidate

facing a former two-term governor ben nelson on the democratic line and in washington state the incumbent governor senator slade gordon a republican uh being hard-pressed by uh former representative maria cantwell she used to be in the house of representatives and we just can't call

00:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2640s)

representatives and we just can't call these races peter but let's take a look at the some of the switches tonight races we've already called abc news has projected that george allen has defeated chuck robb in virginia robbed the democratic senator out in nevada we project that john ensign has beaten ed bernstein that was an open seat to richard bryan a democratic senator in nevada was retiring and in delaware tom carper the governor we believe has defeated bill roth those of you who have roth iras that was the guy he's out and let's go back to bizarre because i understand we can now make a call in missouri abc news projects that the deceased governor has won the most votes he will have won the most goats mel carnahan his line is there he of course is deceased he died in an airplane christ three weeks ago we believe has defeated john ashcroft now peter here's what's going to happen in missouri then we already know that the new governor has said he will appoint mel carnahan's widow gene carnahan to the united states senate that's perfectly legal under missouri law but hold it this could get very tough the senate is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and the constitution says that the person elected the house or senate must be an inhabitant of the state from which they come now the question will be and i'll bet it goes to the courts first is a dead man he won an inhabitant of the state this may be dancing on the head of a pin but i will just bet you that gene carnahan is not going to sail right to the senate without a lot of people taking a look at this sam one of the few interviews that mrs carnahan gave and it cannot have been easy was to copy roberts cokey have you any idea how mrs carnahan intends to express herself on this issue express herself on the question on whether or not she would actively take the seat oh she she expects to actively take the

00:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2760s)

oh she she expects to actively take the seat uh the governor the acting governor the former lieutenant governor is now the governor has said that he would appoint her to the seat and she expects to take the seat come january and she says that she would fulfill the same missions that her husband mel carnahan had in mind that she agrees with him on all the major issues and he was very similar to al gore on all the major issues she says she'd also take on some women's issues breast cancer domestic violence things that she's paid attention to as the first lady of missouri but this question of a challenge is a real one now there have been lots of challenges to house and senate seats over the years they tend to be political rather than legal and this one is is likely to be the same uh depending on how many seats the republicans end up with in the senate it was certainly going to be an issue if the senate ended up even can i just stop your second to hear what mrs carnahan herself said to you on the subject of a challenge i can't really believe that anyone would attempt to sort the the will of the missouri voters if they vote and say they want to continue the the ideals and the things that my husband stood for and they know that the governor wilson will appoint me to carry that out i just can't believe that someone would attempt to thwart that one more thought cokie well of course that was in the middle of the political campaign and she needed to get that message out because uh she was being the newspapers were saying don't vote for carnahan because it will cause a legal wrangle she needed to say no no no no it won't we'll see it is a little bit unseemly for the republicans to decide that they want to take on the widow lady and it doesn't really help their image with women where they've had a problem if you look at the seat after seat in these senate races tonight the democrats who won did it with the women's vote and since when were politicians afraid of being unseemly the other thing it was very difficult for

00:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=2880s)

other thing it was very difficult for senator ashcroft there to campaign in the states after governor governor carnahan was killed and much of the state was caught up apparently in this notion of keep the fires burning which was the slogan that uh the carnahan people need very popular governor in the state that carnahan people look up keep the fires burning and at least by our projection he now has lin sure on a missouri item uh

peter we can tell you that to a great extent mrs carnahan's victory or the victory of her late husband which she will inherit is largely due to the gender gap men tended to vote for um mr ashcroft 54 45 that's a nine point difference women voted for mr carnahan or mrs carnahan 52 47 five points that's a 14 point gender gap a big factor in that victory peter thanks very much lynn and coking just one thing to remember about the florida race which is so close now 30 000 votes between them if the florida race is within one half of one percent the state law calls for an automatic recount so we can put aside based on the numbers we have so far the notion of a legal challenge mark halperin because state law calls for an automatic recount if it ends up tonight within one half of one percent we'll be right back [Music] the 2000 vote abc news live coverage will continue in a moment [Music] abc news live coverage continues from new york once again peter jennings oregon iowa wisconsin florida florida is the big thing now because pretty much now whoever wins florida the other man's got to win them all but if one man wins another then florida's going to make the absolute difference but here's what the popular vote looks in florida with mr nader and mr buchanan included now with 96 percent of the

00:50:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3002s)

included now with 96 percent of the precincts reporting by the way i just want to remind you if we get to 100 of precincts reporting i'll remind you again this simply means that the precincts have all reported in it does not mean that the vote has been counted or tabulated but currently 48 for mr gore mr bush just up a touch there 49 2 for mr nader the assumption is that he has taken those votes from mr gore on the other hand they might be people who wouldn't vote otherwise and pat buchanan who we said earlier this evening was toast which may have been too glib but has certainly seen his career as a campaigning politician pretty much obliterated this year has sixteen thousand one hundred and twenty votes with ninety six percent of the precincts reporting and as the two men are only twenty thirty thousand votes apart at this moment you can see the mr buchanan's importance suddenly uh looms larger than it has at any previous moment in the entire evening on the phone with us from miami at the moment is the managing editor of the miami herald larry olmstead um mr um said i remember several times in the last little while where we've said that newspapers are going to have to push their deadlines back you might as almost will not go to the streets tonight yeah right now we have in fact begun our press run we have a headline that describes the race as too close to call but also in that that lead headline on page one indicates that governor bush is clinging to a narrow lead here in florida right now what's your impressions of the evening down there because everybody's been fixated on florida in a way that even you in the sunshine state don't usually get yes we knew all along that florida was going to be a key battleground for the presidential race and both candidates of course have telegraphed that by spending quite a bit of time here joe lieberman also on behalf of al gore himself has spent

00:52:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3123s)

on behalf of al gore himself has spent probably the most time in miami-dade and broward counties so we knew it was going to be a close race and i have to say this uh this focus has uh maybe even outstripped our own predictions now i realize that you know we're all looking at minuscule numbers in terms of the exit poll percentages but our show that mr lieberman may not have made the difference uh in florida that perhaps the gore campaign wanted him to make you have the same impression i think my feeling is that the democrats chose the strategy of making sure voters in the vote-rich parts of the state and especially here in south florida knew that they cared and that mr lieberman was able to do a good job of being part of the energy energizing of the democratic constituency here in broward and dave counties huge turnout among jewish voters huge turnout turnout among black voters and uh to the extent that gore is still in the race here in florida i think that uh that has a lot to do with it do you estimate the turnout throughout the state is higher lower just about the same as four years ago um i haven't looked at the overall state figures yet but in south florida we're talking about uh voter turnout in miami-dade county of upwards of 75-80 percent which is certainly far harder four years ago and we think that that's going to be the case all around now if you've listened to us all this evening if you've had any time what are we missing about florida at this point in terms of insight i think a couple of things that are important about florida one is that this is a state where not only do

we have the close presidential race but we've had several other hotly contested races our u.s senate race which was won by bill nelson was a very tight race we have a heck of a congressional race going on in south florida with clay shaw the incumbent

00:54:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3241s)

incumbent really in the fight of his political career against elaine bloom and miss bloom looks like she has again the very narrowest leads in the race is too close to call a seat that could go democratic we have a very hotly contested state attorney's race in miami-dade county and all these are issues that are key i also think we have a very popular governor and jeb bush but it's also a state where there's a lot of controversy over various state issues including affirmative action let me just ask you one more question on that then because we don't get any sense here but again it's hard to tell when it's this close as to whether or not mr bush did what was required of him or what degree of what was required of him he did i think that's going to be the topic of a lot of discussion and speculation i think that um uh our governor uh governor jeb bush uh was certainly uh very supportive of his brother's candidacy um there seemed to be a point where uh the republican message kind of got a little bit sidetracked shall we say this was a state that everybody just kind of started assuming was just going to go republican and i think maybe republicans got caught a little bit surprised by the amount of fervor that the gore camp put in and the amount of energy that they put in in this state well i appreciate you taking time saving the saving edition for us with you nobody's made them afford 1948 mistake yet uh well we don't plan to do that we plan to have a very solid paper for our world very solid newspaper so thank you very much for taking the time larry olmsted who's the managing editor of the miami herald now i want to go uh briefly now to our the director of abc's polling unit the normally camera shy gary langer in fact making his first appearance of evening to explain the nader vote in florida as best you can peter this is the kind of math people can do around this election if you take the nader vote currently around ninety thousand votes

00:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3361s)

currently around ninety thousand votes in florida one point seven percent and you apportion it uh the way it splits nationally that is forty seven percent from gore twenty one percent from bush and thirty percent wouldn't have voted and you apply it to the bush and gore vote in florida you find that george w bush is still ahead in florida by about five thousand votes out of five points gary i apologize we're going to make a projection now abc news is now going to project that florida goes to mr bush to stop and absorb that for a second to put it up on the map abc news projects that florida is going to go for mr bush the 25 electoral votes to mr bush take a look at it that takes mr bush by our projections to 271 unless there is a terrible calamity george w bush by our projections is going to be the next president of the united states all this talk about florida bringing it right down to the wire ten thousand twenty thousand thirty thousand votes between them that's what it looks like in austin at the moment i'm not sure exactly what they're responding to but i think they may not have had the news of this projection that abc news now projects our unit tells us that florida is going to go to mr bush george stephanopoulos well peter a huge huge win he pulled it out the last second i have to believe you know you're hearing the noise in austin imagine the the sounds in nashville right now a few hours ago they thought that florida had been called for them and now it's it's taken away but what we're also seeing here peter is an even closer electoral college finish than we saw back in 1976 when gerald ford got 240 electoral votes um against jimmy carter al gore gets 242 but it does look like if our projections are correct as you said george w bush is the next president well it's a very tough call this very late in the day it's 20 minutes after two florida said they were going to count to 2 30 and beyond if somebody please put up the popular vote for me in florida we'll see exactly how many

00:58:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3480s)

in florida we'll see exactly how many precincts are reporting the popular vote for florida please we'll see how many precincts are actually reporting so that we know how much of the vote we have that's the popular vote nationwide i'd love to see the popular vote in florida because it's florida we want to key on at this moment

now with 97 of the precincts reporting that doesn't mean the vote is completely called that does not mean there will not be a challenge that does not mean that the absentee ballots have yet to be considered and i'm not quite sure how our polling unit actually considered them but we may want to ask them that in just a moment but by our projection mr bush wins and it'll be first fast accurate news 2's coverage of the 2000 vote continues now you're looking live at the party in austin texas abc news as well as the other major networks have projected that george w bush will be the 43rd president of the united states good evening everyone and welcome back to our local coverage of the 2000 vote let's go right to austin texas news 2's jay corp and jay they must be partying wildly well bob whatever title you want to use whatever moniker the president of the united states the commander-in-chief the leader of the free world or the most powerful man in the world that title now appears to go to governor george w bush if we can zoom in to the stage era you can see that there are still a few loyal thousand fans that have remained here around the capitol in austin texas the crowd thinned out considerably over the last hour or so because of the terrible rain and this crowd cannot contain itself they've been wading through this miserable weather and now finally there is jubilation you see people hugging and kissing embracing running around on the streets in just utter joy just to give you a sense as the kind of president that this country is now going to have he is a delegator who relies heavily on advisers he tends to set few priorities but in the state of texas he has accomplished

01:00:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3601s)

the state of texas he has accomplished most of what he has wanted to do he takes pride in being able to work with both democrats and republicans and he is very well known for surrounding himself with extremely confident aides and advisors very reaganesque if you will he has been both praised and criticized for his leadership style we will certainly see how successful that style will be in the congress some things that you can expect at least what the bush campaign campaigned about on the trail was a tax cut increasing the military budget being able to take a portion of social security and being able to invest that for yourself those are just a few of the many issues that governor bush campaigned on one of the real keys will be how will he be able to get that agenda out with congress being so tight he certainly does not have a clear one way or the other republican or democrat even though the republicans still control the congress again as we turn around we are expecting i would imagine momentarily for governor bush to come out and to make some remarks to the few thousand loyal books backers that remain if there's anything else that we can bring to you we certainly will back to you bob jay what kind of rollercoaster ride was it out there tonight it's just an understatement bob to even [Music] try to quantify that i mean literally one half hour these thousands would be down in the dumps the next they would be joyous and screaming wildly and for a time i think that people didn't even think that this race would even be decided possibly until tomorrow with florida being so close i'm trying to look back and see right now if governor bush is going to come to the podium soon i don't believe he is what they're doing right now is they're playing a video this video has been played a couple of times this evening shows bush on the campaign trail positive confident as he has been so much in the last week you could really see a turn bob in the last week i would say especially in the last few days before the election bush really became a strong

01:02:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3721s)

the election bush really became a strong campaigner a lot of his aides even admitted that he wasn't a very good campaigner but he really had a confidence that burned into a lot of the folks that he talked to around the country they are partying in austin we'll check back in with you a little bit later thanks jay back here in nashville tennessee republicans are partying down at the wild horse saloon news 2's dan mcdonald is down there dan put it mildly bob nuts down here let me show you what we've got going on here they made the announcement on abc news just a couple minutes ago they uh made the pronouncement on fox a little bit earlier in the evening maybe a minute before that and this place has been going nuts ever since some of the chants have been no more gore no more gore of course they feel terrific here about the fact that george w bush carried al gore's home state of tennessee but they feel even much better about the fact that george w bush is the next president of the united states and i'll tell you what i have never seen and heard so many tennessee fans rooting for florida and man when they called florida for bush this place was up for jobs the

chant they've been doing now has been who let the bush out they've been doing that woof woof thing so they're having a great time they're obviously very very happy and relieved dan as you know the republicans here in tennessee worked hard they really got a big get out the vote campaign there were bus trips all across east tennessee trying to get the base organized they wanted to roll that vote over the middle into the cumberland area they carried tennessee so it worked effectively for them it was a textbook campaign bob anyone that's looked at it will tell you objectively they did a terrific job of energizing their base and energizing people not only to vote for george w bush but really to vote against al gore they really made him out to be a washington person not a tennessee person it was very effective they also tired him with the clinton legacy and that didn't play well here in the in the bible belt enjoy the party we're going to head over to where it's a little bit quieter right now news 2's chris bungard is over at legislative plaza where the gore campaign has been all evening the rain was there earlier it has stopped

01:04:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3841s)

rain was there earlier it has stopped and i bet it's quiet up there now chris well it's stark contrast to what happened at the wild horse and of course in austin the only music you're going to hear right now is canned music i think they're digging into the old cds we've got bob seger uh playing right now we just heard a voice come over the loudspeaker and say that allen tipper gore will be here in 20 minutes that's uh so let's let's say in about a half an hour given the the wet roads and you know how campaigns go so we're we're expecting to see al and tipper gore here making their making his concession speech probably within the next half an hour bob chris now that this has been projected there's going to be a lot of what if second guesses especially on the on the democratic side uh questions about should president clinton have campaigned more uh should mr gore maybe have looked at that debate the first debate did that kill him uh the environment two of his biggest issues he's supposed to be a great debater in the environment may have ended up in costing this election well i think in some of the conversation we've heard all night long from some of the commentators uh you know it's almost better to for a for a campaign to lose uh you know by not a landslide but a decisive loss because then something like this they're going to look back and go boy if we had done this like you mentioned would president clinton have helped mr gore obviously mr gore lost his home state of tennessee and that was really i think people look back and go that was a real turning point because up to that point it looked like the momentum was with mr gore rob chris we're looking at some of the pictures in austin texas i asked the vice president earlier tonight if he was prepared for defeat he said he was not that he had not thought about that what does this do to his career well you know i i heard something i didn't even thought about earlier uh tonight there was somebody talking about a governor al gore perhaps in the year 2002. now uh of course i think what what will happen with mr gore is he's going to finish out uh being vice president he has about two and a half months in that and then of course uh i think he's going

01:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=3961s)

and then of course uh i think he's going to take a very long vacation and who knows i think you're right chris we'll check back within you with a little bit later let's go back now to abc news peter jennings as they continue in coverage of the 2000 vote [Music] from the creators of breakfast at midnight and the producers of a family tradition comes a holiday tale they are the reason part of the reason that al gore was competitive there okay michelle thank you very much also ask you please don't go away want to go to the white house where abc's john cochran has spent the evening john you alluded a little earlier in the evening to the fact the second guessing would begin very quickly why not start it all right you will hear from the clinton people the clinton white house people speaking on background of course unnamed sources they'll be saying that bill clinton should have been called for much more in this campaign he should have been sent out to states like some of the battlegrounds the 200th anniversary party uh for the white house the white house haven't existed that long and on the guest list that night former president george bush and his wife two other former presidents gerald ford and his wife and jimmy carter and his wife vice president gore will be there uh george young george bush will not be there wouldn't you like to be uh fly on the wall at that dinner a lot a lot of heart hurt feelings uh that night would be interesting to know the relations between the bushes and the gores and the clintons uh my invitation was lost in the mail but uh michael beschloss did get his invitation so we'll be talking

to him about that thank you very much john that just killed your bit we're going to go straight away to abc's michael beschloss because michael on an occasion like this i know that we asked you to give some thoughts to concession speeches and you made the point to us earlier uh in the week that they're very much a factor of the television age that's right because you know before the television age peter we were in a

01:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4081s)

television age peter we were in a situation where we expected the loser to sort of close off the suspense of the evening by saying i now renounce the possibility that i might win the presidency it's very much incumbent on the loser now to do that that's something that al gore is going to have to think very hard about i remember what george stephanopoulos said just a little while ago when richard nixon met his supporters early in the morning in november of 1960 and he said if this trend does continue senator kennedy will be our next president his supporters were irate and they screamed at him they said no get him out of here kennedy watched in hyannis port he said nixon didn't concede and i wouldn't under these circumstances either but this is a very different situation tonight it it's the age that the television age insists i guess michael that we want a capstone on the end of of great events like this it does and this evening calls for that more than anything else because of the ambiguity just think of it peter this is an evening i never thought i would ever live to see in my lifetime a few hours ago we were looking at george w bush as possibly politically dead brought back from political death and now presumably the next president of the united states al gore has had to cope with all of that emotionally in the space of a couple of hours and now has to make this very tough decision does he want to open the possibility of a recount or does he want to concede that george w bush will indeed be president do you want to make a guess my guess would be that uh i think i heard i hate on to keep on quoting george but i think he makes so much sense this is something that he probably will have to sleep on tonight very interesting so you think we might not get a concession speech from him he'll want to reconsider it or he'll want to consider at least until the morning i think that's a possibility but we're all guessing okay you're quite right we're all guessing but george he does make one very good point as michael beschloss you've had something interesting to say on every subject that we have brought up

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4200s)

on every subject that we have brought up this evening and we're very grateful for that but let's talk a little bit about al gore um a life in politics unlike many if any modern american politicians and he almost instantly may become a tragic figure that's right about as well prepared for the presidency as any man ever years in the house and the senate in eight years as vice president by all accounts one of the most active vice presidents in american history loses by a hangnail in florida at the last minute in a time of great peace and prosperity the only vice president to have to run after the president that chose him was impeached he must feel star-crossed this evening as he considers what to say i think star cross is a phrase many people will use many times but i'd argue something else with you he didn't in one respect lose by a hair grant you he did but he had such a head start going in with the economy um you know things are tough you know things are so good it's time to make a change was a pretty pitiful plea from the republicans early on absolute peter and all the academic forecasters that we looked at were were forecasting a big al gore landslide on the other hand so just a second ago he is the first vice president to run after his mentor was impeached and there is a little bit of a hint in some of our polling tonight over how that might have affected al gore as well among the voters who approved of president clinton's job performance and approved of his him personally al gore won those voters 85 to 12. they were 35 of the electorate of those who approved of president clinton's job performance but disapproved of women personally they were 20 of the electorate al gore won them only 63-33 a 20-point difference so there he was at some level and i think his part of his partisans will argue back to president clinton's that he was burdened by the clinton legacy so hearken back mark halperin our political director for us for a moment to some of the phraseology that we heard throughout the campaign gwen was the first phraseology we heard from george bush that began to call these issues into character about mr gore well i think

01:12:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4320s)

i think obviously his main slogan compassion is conservative but the signature line of every major george bush stump speech this year was he would raise his right hand he would simulate taking the oath and what they did very cleverly was they knew that a lot of what people didn't like about the republican party in washington was the negative attacks the clinton scandal investigations on capitol hill so they did a very good job of raising those issues without directly raising them in such a way that people could say this is all george bush is running on and they struck a very clever balance the whole way cookie what's your estimation of what mr gore will do now it's very hard to know he's been in public life for 24 years and started very young and and really has been building toward this uh really his whole life as you've all seen the biographies over the last few months this is what his family groomed him to do so he's going to have to take a big deep breath and figure it out he has a very fine mind he's likely to do some teaching do some writing do some reading but figuring out the next job is going to be very tough okay well probably one of the people who can give us a greater insight into the into the bush sorry the gore state of mind at this time of night is the reverend jesse jackson who's been very close to mr gore's campaign though we haven't seen mr jackson a lot in the media in this election as we have in other cycles mr jackson have you talked to the family tonight can you give us a sense of what's going on around the family well not tonight but there's a lot of a lot of pain i probably work more in this campaign than any other i've made almost 300 appearances since uh since august up until october 17th with the registration and then since that time until tonight vote the turnout and much of our focus on the african-american vote and the labor vote was successful but in the end it was not enough i didn't mean to imply that you actually weren't working for the ticket this year i hope you understand that but what do you think actually made the difference in terms of the national campaign i think in the in the end um uh

01:14:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4442s)

i think in the in the end um uh the um the the bush forces were able to uh as it were fuzzy up the ideological distinction that we're going to see come january when you look at uh the bush cheney strom thurman jezebel's rn hatch line they're right down the line the states rights and and right right right to work and anti-friend of action anti women's choice anti-consumer advocate the lawsuits you're going to see a very intense uh ideological line even the supreme court the idea of strict constructionism and exalting thomas oscar leah the ramifications of of the bush training ideology uh and the supreme court will have a huge uh impact upon our country come january we got to see how this plays out mr jackson you know as well as anybody in the country how quickly political minds have to adjust so let's assume which is not not particularly hypothetical that you're going to meet mr bush before long what are you going to say to him well of course i'll respect him as president that's to enhance uh a a a real bipartisan dialogue in our country on issues that matter because whoever is president we must choose uh stop first class jails of the first stop first class jails and second class schools whoever is president that 42 million americans don't have health insurance i think issues that matter health care for all education for all african policy aids policy uh the criminal justice system i think issues these issues that just will not go away must be addressed by any president or in congress and and of course uh i just want to my just one last question that i apologize because i know i'm about to lose you mr bush has said repeatedly he wants to bring people together he's described himself as a compassionate conservative as of now do

01:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4560s)

compassionate conservative as of now do you believe him no and i'm anxious to see him make them because if if he's going to in fact uh attack women's choice and attack affirmative action uh if he's gonna if he is inclined to put on that supreme court what he calls that's not compassionate this device has been painful but i think we should be willing to talk about it but uh i don't hold out in the in a great sense of hope because his line is so clear and frankly a very threatening line okay mr jackson thank you very much thank you for joining us i can tell you but trying to get the faithful roused by the sound of your voice sam donaldson mr jackson brings up something which we haven't talked about tonight that's been talked about a lot in the campaign and with 271 electoral votes he's now going to have an impact on the supreme court that democrats have warned about well that's true let's take the moment the democrats have picked up two seats in the senate they could pick up more we still have some races on the side going to be very close the

republicans can retain control but the democrats will have a lot of votes there now if george w bush puts forward of someone like robert bork you'll remember the ill-fated nominee that ronald reagan tried to get through big fight over that it's not going to get through the senate i don't think president bush if he becomes president bush is going to do that now whether he'll put forward someone that jesse jackson likes is another question he has said mr bush has that he's not going to use a litmus test on the other hand he has sent the message that he wants conservative judges who will be judges who follow the constitution strict constructionists if you will but my guess is that his father was one for one his father put david suter on the court his father uh put a very strong uh strict constructionist on the court uh so i think george w bush will probably be somewhere in the middle he's not going to be the great ogre on the court that jesse jackson fears on

01:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4680s)

on the court that jesse jackson fears on the other hand he was not going to import people that al gore would appoint thank you sam just very quickly before we go away for a very short break because we're coming back to hear from mr gore and mr bush the texas appointments of the supreme court have been judged by various people who've looked at them in a fairly independent way as being fairly fair and moderate and respectable judges which would appeal to both sides absolutely to be relatively moderate george w bush will be under much more pressure from his base right um now that he's been elected president remember the conservatives were quiet through this whole campaign counting on him so he's going to owe them a little bit but my guess is that he wouldn't mind having someone like a david suter who his father picked because probably the worst thing politically for him would be for him to pick a judge on the supreme court and then have roe versus wade overturned uproar in the country he doesn't want that before 2004. okay thanks very much we are waiting for mr gore and we're waiting for mr bush so we're going to go away for just a minute or two and then we'll be back oregon and iowa and wisconsin have not been called but mr bush has 271 electoral votes and mr gore as of the moment is at 242. [Music] the 2000 vote abc news live coverage will continue in a moment [Music] the 2000 vote continues live once again peter jennings when you're looking at austin texas and they're rather subdued at the moment that's because they're waiting for mr bush and we're waiting for mr gore too who we believe will show up sooner than mr bush obviously with his vice presidential candidate joe lieberman there'll be some question tonight about how mr lieberman actually delivered but it's been common wisdom and witnessed on the campaign of course that mr lieberman gave mr gore a tremendous amount of energy so if you looked at the last 36 hours of this campaign and other all-nighters that mr gore has pulled that work ethic that you've heard so many people talk about tonight mr lieberman and certainly mr uh gore's

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4800s)

mr lieberman and certainly mr uh gore's wife tipper gave him tremendous energy throughout the campaign want to go straight away to dean reynolds who was still outside the state house tonight dean mr bush denied it throughout the campaign repeatedly that he was intent on avenging his father's loss but it must be sweet for the whole family no question about it peter and you know yesterday when they wound up this campaign where were they they campaigned in tennessee and they campaigned in arkansas even going so far as to play the clinton theme song at the beginning of the rally so yes i think there was a little payback in all of this okay now do you agree with us that uh he's going to wait for mr gore but he does plan to come out and talk to his supporters have been there throughout the evening evidently yeah i mean many of his top staff have shown up as well and i don't think they would have left the comforts of the headquarters to brave the elements here if they didn't think the governor was going to come out okay i want to go back to this florida vote because we made so much of it this evening and ask our director roger goodman who's done a great job worse this evening to put up the popular vote in florida again because david leahy of the miami dade elections department uh told us a short while ago on the record that there were about 38 500 votes in the county mark halperin which were not yet reported we're contested we're worried about or we're in the county well it's a little unclear at this point i wish i wish i could tell you i'm actually talking to an election lawyer right now trying to get to the bottom of the the more basic question that al gore faces which is does he press this

does he press the notion of that there should be a recount whether the law automatic recount law kicks in or not okay well let me just say what mr leahy of the miami dade i'll let you proceed with that i apologize that uh what david leahy of the miami dade elections department said um he said that um cuban americans this is really for you george cuban americans have been raising the conservative presence now what makes me focus on that for a

01:22:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=4922s)

now what makes me focus on that for a minute takes us back to elian gonzalez and al gore and whether or not as several of us linda douglas included this evening thought mr gore was pandering at the time well he certainly got accused of it he would of course say that his position was consistent all along which it wasn't he would say that it had to be considered by the family courts i think we can probably adjudicate that at another time but but it's true and it might have shown though that he was thinking about florida from the very beginning at some level he knew how important this state would be in the end but remember also the hispanic community in florida is bigger than the cuban community now puerto rican dominican republic venezuelan colombian it's gotten much broader and al gore was winning far more support from that um group in the hispanic community than from the cubans now we can't tell it tonight because i don't think we asked people in the cuban community american community coming out actually what age they were particularly but the cuban vote in itself has been split human opinion has been divided often on older and younger generations that's right but it's still basically a republican vote right now on national elections also certainly in local elections in miami my guess is that it was going to be a very small percentage of the vote no matter what and if there was any political calculation at all i actually believe it had far more to do with his primary fight against bill bradley than anything happening now now somewhere in our control room we i know have a picture of karl rove because when we come to florida again george or we stay with florida we know that karl rove is regarded in his party in both parties as a brilliant organizer he'll be the giant of the evening as all the second guessing goes on among political professionals but he apparently has done a very good organizing job with the absentee ballots i'm told absolutely paid an awful lot of attention to that and as of just a few days before the election there were more than 100 000 more absentee requests from republicans than from democrats in florida and of course he'll get an awful lot of credit for running a disciplined campaign a

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5040s)

for running a disciplined campaign a well-organized campaign and you know on the other side i think people will say listen 50 000 votes in florida uh and the al gore people are geniuses 50 000 votes here for george bush karl rove is the genius of this evening and that's a picture of karl rove who we're all very familiar with it is quite stunning i think we were all struck by this from the very beginning of how closely held the republican campaign was held by basically the iron triangle right joe alba the campaign manager karen hughes governor bush's communications director in karl rove the chief strategist and of course his campaign chairman don evans uh who is a very close friend of george w bush let's see if they will now replicate that uh as as governor bush tries to put together his white house staff and i think they are well aware that they can help continue the success of the campaign if they appoint a white house staff quickly thanks very much now i want to introduce you to two people their families have certainly waited up this late long because we're one of the few we're certainly the only television news organizations that had a correspondent with both of these campaigns since the very beginning i wanted we call them off-air reporters they don't appear on television very much but day after day after day they are the ones who push into us at all points in this news division what's really happening on the inside of those campaigns and it's time for you to hear from them i want to go first to dana hill who has been with the gore campaign from the very beginning dana nice to see you've done a fabulous job for us for the last couple of years just give us your thoughts to start with well clearly tonight i think is a very very disparity night for the gore campaign and all throughout the campaign that we've been talking to throughout the year you know this is one of those losses that has to be especially dispiriting for those who work on the ground level who try to get that one extra vote first per precinct as al gore tried to call

on people to do throughout the campaign because it came down to one vote per precinct and it came down to such a close race now did you keep in your notebook as as these final days wound down what you thought there were mistakes

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5160s)

mistakes might be that mr gore was making you know there's going to be second guessing in all quarters you have to realize that in a campaign like this where you have literally one vote for his precinct this close in election there has to be some realization that both campaigns probably ran a pretty good campaign and probably ran a campaign that succeeded on a lot of levels even though one got more votes than the other did and when you were talking to the gore campaign in these final hours did you begin to pick up what was going to happen it was such a roller coaster ride that you began to pick up one vibe then you began to pick up another vibe and then you began to pick up the opposite of that vibe because the minute they learned that they had they thought they were going to win new mexico that they won in new mexico uh then they thought that they were in and then suddenly when they learned that florida was going to be called the other direction then suddenly it threw everything into chaos it's and how you've made so many trips to so many places in the course of this year dana tennessee did not i assume come as a surprise to you of tennessee yes you know i think it's especially difficult for al gore to have to lose his home state here 30 years after his father lost it here and and since he he lost his home state here in tennessee and uh you know it is at the end of all of al gore's speeches he'll talk about a gloomy day a rainy day uh when he'll when there will be a loss and you'll have to read in the newspapers that george bush won it's especially fitting here tonight that is so rainy so gloomy and that the the headlines tomorrow will read just a fuzzy impression that bush won i realized we're now involved in speculation minute by minute but do you have some sense from the campaign staff as to what mr gore might say at the moment well clearly he's gathered his aides here today and every indication we have is that he's going to concede this loss but you have to realize that he'd come forward with some sort of some sort of gracious uh gracious tribute to his he said throughout the campaign no personal attacks on his opponent could probably say something like that

01:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5281s)

could probably say something like that and then at the same time make some note of just how close this was and as you watch the election polls i don't know how much time you had to listen to us on the election policy but as you saw the interpretation by the voters unwind throughout the evening anything catch you by surprise in terms of the campaign's emphasis in terms of the campaign emphasis throughout the campaign gore has waged the campaign based based mainly on traditional democratic issues social security medicare entitlements and you saw that take effect tonight florida was one that he won and he put a real emphasis on and he won that tonight but again he lost some other states some swing states where you saw some more swing voters that he could have gotten with some of those other issues gun control and maybe some of the issues that president clinton ran on in 1996 thanks dan i want to talk to your opposite number but i want to ask my assistant nancy gabriel here who keeper of all things uh how many visits did bush and gore make to florida do you happen to remember 1817 17 or 18 uh visits by each of the candidates to florida tremendous investment in florida as we've seen in a variety of ways tonight now let's go to austin texas because the young man who has been with george fore since the very beginning is still smiling still awake is john berman um john first of all impressions it's been an incredible trip peter it's sort of like a field trip a non-stop field trip we have to keep reminding yourself that the person leading the field trip is running to be leader of the free world it's a it's an incredible thing it's exhausting all the reporters are exhausted the campaign staff all seems exhausted tonight very relieved but frankly just very spent john what's your estimate uh estimation of the bush campaign team this iron triangle of the three that has run this campaign so tightly from the very beginning well they won uh the results matter here and this campaign staff which received a great deal of criticism throughout the campaign put together a system put together a method put together a strategy that

01:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5400s)

method put together a strategy that ultimately won the campaign this is a fiercely fiercely loyal campaign staff they really believe the governor is the best man for the job they're fiercely loyal to him it starts at the top with the iron triangle you just mentioned but it goes down to the junior aides too they are very devoted to governor bush and in turn governor bush is very devoted to them now i know that karl rove who's the absolute chief of all this has said to you on several occasions that they weren't counting on florida as this much they were going to put together all of those lesser states elsewhere in the country he must have wavered on that something awful tonight well this campaign got a little bit of the jitters tonight the last few days they've been telling us they were going to win 320 electoral votes they were putting on a show of bravado that's almost unmatched i think in political history they were trying to convince everyone they were going to win and gather momentum tonight as the night went on you could tell they were getting a little nervous they said they didn't need florida but rove had promised for the last several days they were going to win florida for a moment when it looked like they weren't going to win florida some advisers frankly told us they were a bit surprised john one of the brightest minds we've had in this entire campaign we're going to keep you for just a moment more to make sure that we get your parents to the television set if they're not already there but as you look back over this campaign what are some of your highlight memories the highlight memories for me are the very early stages of the campaign where there only are very few reporters traveling with the governor there were times that it was just the governor his staff and me out there on the road i hitched a ride one once on his on his private jet on a trip back from new hampshire down to austin texas just with the governor a few of his campaign staff and the governor who was always very interested in what reporters were doing and what was being said about him called me up to the front of the plane and just wanted to chat clearly he was trying to work me trying to work the media but it's a pretty memorable time and i assume that one of the things he always wanted to worry about was baseball the governor is a very big baseball fan he was of course the owner of the texas rangers i'm something of a baseball fan a big fan of the boston red sox who consistently let me down and the governor uh didn't let me ever forget that john if we were looking to

[01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5520s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5520s)

forget that john if we were looking to the future now and and trying to figure out how a bush administration would deal with the media how it would want to communicate with the public through the media whether it would be open to the media what's your guess it's very interesting their relationship with the media has been an odyssey over time at first they received so much cam good campaign press positive press when they started they didn't have to do anything it just came to them but when they when john mccain started getting positive press and the media seemed to fall in love with him the bush campaign really started started begging for media attention and asking for it all the time of course in the last few months they haven't had any news conferences and they try to keep us at arm's length and when things go bad for the bush campaign they blame the media they blame specific reporters who they don't agree with uh they could be a very prickly uh presidential staff when it comes to the media uh we're gonna have to wait and see how they react but there are some people wondering if they're gonna be ready for the onslaught of the washington press corps we did hear for the bush campaign earlier this evening that they were angry with the media tonight for even for for giving florida to mr gore and taking it back how did that manifest itself uh many of the campaign staff yelled at me that's the way it manifested us up with me when i would call the campaign office they would say what's wrong with you what's wrong with your station i think that will all be water under the bridge now i think they're probably pretty happy with the way things turned out but they were not at all pleased that several networks went on the air with the news at al gore one florida and john just one other thing for the moment at least about mr bush's cool we saw him this evening in the governor's mansion he seemed as cool today as on any time i've interviewed him and you've said many times that he's kept a sense of equilibrium throughout the good times and the bad times is that how you remember him up until now absolutely that's one of his strongest characteristics when he was absolutely throttled in the new hampshire primary he seemed steady as a rock all outward impressions where he was steady as a rock this september when the polls shifted toward al gore and governor bush had a series of campaign problems again he was very steady he told he told the reporters one day he said i'm going to win if that's what you're asking

01:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5641s)

to win if that's what you're asking and it was what the reporters were asking the governor is a very steady character very steady under under adversity sometimes especially when it comes to campaign adversity now john we've also one last question for you for the moment we've seen many of the surrogates for mr bush out campaigning for him who one might presume he wished to appoint the senior positions in the administration can you talk about those for just a second absolutely governor bush has had colin powell out with him several times in the last few weeks and he's hinted strongly that colin powell would be in the administration you know he'll indulge his head over to colin powell and say i hope his service in government isn't over yet so it'd be surprising not to see colin powell on the governor at this point the same thing with his major national security adviser condoleezza rice he frequently says she's someone that he would like to have around the administration and john we've watched mr bush learn over the course of this campaign a great many people in the country will debate whether he's learned enough great many people in the country still think he's an intellectual lightweight how much of you see him seeing him learn on the issues in the last two years on certain issues he speaks extremely well and he's extremely knowledgeable on education when he gets going in education he seems to know the issue inside and out and his eyes light up on other issues you still get the sense that he's working through them the governor still hasn't really explained his social security plan to the nation in a way that makes them understand it he is growing uh he is gaining a growing understanding of how to explain some of these issues he worked very hard to explain his tax plan to people so he is doing a little bit of a better job he has grown as the campaign has gone on as for his vice presidential nominee it was said at the very time that he chose him he chose him to govern not to campaign it certainly turned out that mr cheney enjoyed campaigning to some extent but didn't seem to make an awful lot of difference how much does he rely on him i think he may end up relying on on a lot more as time goes on during the campaign after he was picked they didn't talk all that much they appeared only

01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5760s)

appeared only very infrequently on the stump together you didn't get the sense they were in very close communication now that governor bush seems to have won the election it would not be at all surprising to see them have a much closer relationship uh secretary cheney has experience in washington governor bush of course doesn't so secretary cheney may be someone who relies on a great deal john thanks very much john berman in austin texas tonight i'm sure we're going to hear from him again he's done an absolutely fabulous job for us on the bush campaign from the very beginning george when who's the last president who comes to washington with this little experience with this little experience in washington maybe bill clinton right in 1992 a governor of arkansas for 12 years but did not have a lot of washington experience did not serve in the congress did not serve in the senate and you know peter i was having a discussion last week with the senior bush staffer who was thinking that maybe they were going to win and they were studying up on books and asking for information on the clinton transition so they would make sure so they would avoid some of the mistakes that president clinton did at the beginning of his term in 1993 and i think because of that you might see a few things will they try to find a democrat to serve in the cabinet a prominent democrat to serve in the cabinet and show that they're really reaching out the hand of bipartisanship one other thing bill clinton did by the way with the secretary of defense in his administration second term the second term second term so yeah did not do it in the first term i could imagine for example one way if if vice president gore concedes tonight perhaps governor bush prevails on the republican party not to challenge the seat of gene carnahan in missouri so he can say listen i want to put all of this time of legal wrangling away and get on with the business of governing will he reach out uh for example to his fellow texan charlie stenholm a house member a conservative house member from texas in the same way that he reached out to the lieutenant governor of texas bob bullock when he became governor and try to forge common ground on some issues okay let me go to cookie roberts on this question of the republican party cookie mr bush has campaigned as far away as he could get

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=5880s)

could get from republicans in the congress what's that relationship likely to be like well that's going to be very interesting uh as george says he's he's likely to reach out to some democrats in fact uh people in his campaign already have uh reached out to some of the more moderate and conservative democrats knowing that the democratic leadership in congress is not likely to be too ready to take his phone calls but the question is is the republican leadership going to be very ready to take his phone calls my the answer to that question is yes they're going to be thrilled to have the white house and to have the congress but he's going to have a certain amount of trouble with some of those leaders particularly his fellow texans tom delay the whip the dick army the majority leader in the house because to some degree particularly congressman delay has not really been very eager to compromise with the democrats in the way that bush says he wants to do and look we're going to have a very quick test of this peter there is a lame duck session of congress coming up they are they're coming back whether we want them to or not and and we will get some sense of the tone when they come back to finish up the money bills and finish up the budget see if the republicans just want to ram everything down the democrats throats or see if there is some sort of conciliation and whether george bush is calling the shots from afar well let me get to the next congress because you could argue at least on the basis of his campaign that mr gore mr bush is much more moderate than many members of the congressional republican delegation as you've just pointed out so perhaps instead of having an automatic mandate that people think they have when you get the house and the senate and the presidency you get a real struggle within the party itself that's very likely now of course those particularly democrats who would say well bush really was just hiding the fact that he was more like the republican leadership than he wanted you to think uh and look they're republican leaders and republican leaders dennis hastert the speaker of the house is much more willing to be conciliatory

01:40:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6002s)

is much more willing to be conciliatory than some of his underlings are so um i i think that it's he could bush could easily find that his hardest problems are with people in his own party or it could be true that some of the worst suspicions of of some democrats are correct and that he ends up governing as a much more conservative republican but that'll be hard to do he doesn't have the votes he has some conservative democrats to work with as well that's right but he doesn't have the votes to just uh do everything uh the republican way if there even is such a thing as the republican way it's going to have to be finding a coalition a new coalition on every single solitary issue and sam donaldson the challenge is actually greater in the senate than it is in the house this indeed peter and we're getting there as far as calling races we have another race to call this one in nebraska abc news projects that the winner is ben nelson the former governor he is a democrat he has defeated attorney general don sternberg now this seat was a democratic seat bob kerry retired so it's not a net pickup at this moment the democrats have picked up two seats according to our projections peter there are two races to call washington state and michigan if both those incumbent republican senators should lose then the senate will be 50 50 but vice president cheney will break the tie and i should just say to him and lynn cheney just move ahead to capitol hill because you're going to have to be there every day okay sam thanks very much i just wish i was very cautious earlier on about whether or not we were absolutely certain about this we have we have a potential conflict in florida mark halperin between the florida secretary of state's numbers and the numbers we have from the voter news service can you explain that i feel like i'm the sole person here standing in the way of talking about the bush transition right you know we see here the florida department of state division of elections website shows a very small margin this was

01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6120s)

shows a very small margin this was brought to our attention by amongst other people the democrats down in nashville who say they look in their computer at this website and they see 48.9 to 48.9 a very small margin of about a thousand votes between the two men with according to this 98.8 percent of the precincts reporting now i i've talked to some people in nashville who say that just give us make it clear those those first two columns the first two columns 48.41 this is on the department of states division of elections official website presumably uh not presumably this is the official website where they're reporting the return and and and

what we have on the voter news service is a is a bigger percentage difference it's well again as we've talked about when the call was made incorrectly the first time for vice president gore we have a model that shows all things taken into account that vice president gore will lose the state the outstanding ballots in this state we know of are from people who live overseas who had told yesterday to mail in their ballots postmarked yesterday there's some number of those outstanding ballots but this margin is close enough that it would certainly if the vice president chose to let it go forward kick in that automatic recount well nobody watches the numbers closer than you except perhaps carolyn smith who analyzes the voter news service for us and i think i'm hearing in my ear that we believe that the voter news service is ahead of the florida department of state's numbers at this point i know they're not knowingly but suspicious all i can say is this is interesting because in nashville based on the people i've been able to reach down there aides the vice president say they're not sure what he's planning to come out and say and again he may put this all to bed by conceding uh that he's lost or he may punt and just give a speech without addressing it or he may say you know the integrity of the elections in question we don't know but if you're a democrat looking at this website you say you don't want to give up on florida yet and as we've said florida's the whole race right now okay now a couple of minutes ago let's just go and look at nashville for the moment because a couple of minutes ago we got

01:44:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6242s)

because a couple of minutes ago we got the word that it might be two minutes before mr gore was going to show up in nashville and abc's terry moran is there terry i don't know if you can welcome back to our coverage here in nashville of the 2000 vote vice president al gore has arrived at the legislative plaza we are told he'll be addressing the crowd at the podium in just a few minutes it is raining heavily downtown but there is still a large crowd let's go to news 2's chris vanguard who is waiting on the word from the vice president chris well i think it's very interesting what was just being said in the last minute by the abc analyst of the election data in florida uh he's been in touch with some of the people at the campaign here saying that it's they're really it's up in the air as to what the vice president will say will he just go ahead and concede the election or will he actually possibly possibly contest uh what is going on in florida and as he said florida's the whole race right now we're waiting to hear what he's going to say chris we've been told from one aspect that he may concede and not contested although we're also hearing that the numbers in florida right now there's as high as 11 000 as low as only a thousand vote difference between the two candidates yeah we're i mean that's that's that's truly you know remarkable stuff and then you know if given this election year given what's happened tonight where florida originally had gone over to mr gore uh being projected several hours ago and then being put in the undecided column it would only be fitting i guess at this point if there was uh still at this point when uh you know we thought it was all over but the shouting uh that there might actually be some sort of some sort of contesting of what is going on in florida because it is so very very close according to at least the i believe they said the secretary of state's office in florida bob chris we know that the vice president was with the liebermans this evening at the lowe's vanderbilt hotel we saw pictures of their motorcade as they were leaving the hotel arriving in

01:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6360s)

were leaving the hotel arriving in legislative plaza he is with his family of course his daughters i assume all his three daughters and son are with him do we know is the vice president going to be introduced by anyone is he just going to come out and speak have you heard any of the plans haven't heard anything i i think right now it's uh there's so much that is up in the air we have not seen uh very virtually none of his surrogates who were all out here earlier people like ed rendell cataway roy herron uh the state director here we have not uh seen them in the area of the press corps here so it's uh you know it's it's uh it's it's unclear exactly at this point exactly what the vice president will say we're assuming of course it'll be a concession speech but uh um and i'm i'm sure it's it's extremely difficult i mean he's going to get up there and and and the eyes of the world will be watching what he says they'll be wondering what he he might say about his future they'll be of course he will talk to the thousands the tens of thousands of people that work in this campaign and probably have a message for them and after that that's why we're all waiting to down here to see exactly what the vice

president will say about what's transpired today part of the huddle with his advisors too may be discussing exactly what's going on in florida i mean maybe they want to wait a little longer see what the numbers do as they continue to come in the numbers are so close about 6 million votes in florida separated by said a high of only 11 000 a low of 1 000 votes so it is extremely close in florida and then the question comes do you wait do you challenge it do you just concede i guess those options are being discussed yeah and also i mean you you got to keep in mind it's it's after two in the morning and this is a man who is uh probably not any sleep for two days and probably hasn't had much sleep in the last week or so i mean you know you gotta wonder if there are clear minds now we're hearing some sort of

01:48:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6480s)

of applause in the background here and not exactly sure what that might mean but uh apparently might be a false call or something uh it's just you know we're we're just here waiting in the rain it's miserable out there isn't it it's not that bad i mean and also you know you got to remember there is no covering of the area where mr gore will talk now you're on a flat concrete slab and all the folks that are there are getting wet and the vice president will get wet too what about the crowd have a lot of folks hung around to hear the vice president's words well there's there's a pretty solid crowd that's been here now for the last hour and there is some sort of applause going up again let me look around here and take a peek um maybe they're just practicing or waving at somebody uh i can see a side angle and i don't see anyone on the stage yet but as i do see some applause and some waving well i think and also the point i was going to get to uh just a moment ago was that i'm sure there's they're probably trying to figure out how to you know get the vice president out there is he gonna is he gonna be holding his own umbrella is uh i imagine his wife tipper of course the liebermans will be out there uh how is it all gonna work uh because again there is no covering of the area where we uh believe that mr gore was uh you know the idea that he would would would talk at the end of this thrust stage which goes out into the middle of this crowd here you know there's all kinds of umbrellas out there but uh not for the vice president at this point certainly no covering choosing pretty hard choosing his words is going to be difficult too because this is a double loss for the vice president not only do you lose the presidency but for the first time ever he lost a race here in tennessee and uh you know for 24 years he has uh he has served uh not only tennessee but of course the last eight years as vice president and you know it's just you you're so focused for so long on something and you you go through several hours like this where

01:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6600s)

several hours like this where where it could have gone either way potentially and i'm sure that there much uh will be written in the next few days about tennessee i mean if tennessee had gone uh to mr gore his home state uh you know we the the election at this point certainly would have gone over 270 for for mr bush and we'd be waiting to hear exactly what was going to happen in places like wisconsin and in iowa and oregon as to i don't think those states have been called at this point while we're waiting on the vice president here in nashville we're looking at some pictures of austin texas the celebration going on down there we are told that it initially anyway that vice president gore has talked to governor bush not sure when that took place or where that took place presumably before he left the loews vanderbilt hotel he made a call to austin and talked to the governor uh congratulating him we assume we don't know what was to exchange there in the conversation and as tradition has it the vice president will make his remarks before we will hear from the president-elect george w bush in texas so everything hinging now on what happens here in nashville before the real celebration takes place in austin well then i can only imagine what's going on in austin texas right now i mean they're ready to party they're ready to celebrate and uh you know they're waiting and the weather's no better there the rain stopped in austin well you know i guess that's poetic justice at this point but again you know it's going to be probably a half an hour or so before uh you know the vice president has wrapped up his remarks uh i'm guessing a little bit on that but then we're you know at that point uh mr bush of course uh will take the stage and that's uh you know we i don't think anybody has uh nobody has seen anything like this since uh of course 1960 for those of us who may remember that bob we were of course very we latched that's right we've also heard about it from our parents throughout the evening chris what about the gore folks uh mr haddaway and chris lehane were those folks

01:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6720s)

and chris lehane were those folks milling around with the reporters were they kind of sequestered away was it a roller coaster ride tonight they were kind of in and out chris lehane we have not seen uh he of course is the vice president's press spokesman uh the one who who travels with him probably the the closest to him uh a member of the inner circle uh the guy who's been you know wherever wherever the vice president has been on this campaign uh chris lehane has been there we're hearing again some sort of uh applause let me take a peek here and again they may be just practicing we're not hearing uh exact listen in here a second they might be announcing something but i guess not so we can talk about this a little bit too chris because the the location tonight where you are the war memorial is special to vice president gore because he chose this because inside just a year and a half ago is where the memorial for his father was that's true and i think most people agree that the uh the best speech that al gore has given in his life was eulogy to his father uh you might expect that but that was uh something which was excuse me uh you know very very moving and also just a block away from here is where al gore senior met paul his mother pauline and they met in a coffee shop here well i believe pauline was a law student at vanderbilt and mr gore i think was also a lawsuit at that time correct me if i'm wrong bob but again it's almost 2 30 in the morning yes it is almost 2 30 in the morning and we're still waiting on the vice president and again it's it's interesting because whatever decision has been made we would assume it has been made they wouldn't have come over from the hotel to address this group without unless some last-minute changes some last-minute information has uh uh gotten to them to change their minds but with all the the quick changes going on in florida with the numbers being as close as they are down there there's always the

01:54:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6841s)

are down there there's always the possibility that some democratic officials are kind to say wait a minute mr vice president maybe we need to wait this out a little longer it's very possible and uh but i i think back to that phone call that you mentioned to mr bush and you gotta you gotta wonder what was said there uh if if indeed you know no reason no doubt that it hasn't been made it's been reported has been made but usually when those phone calls are made you know the first thing is a congratulatory words from one candidate to the other but if that's not out yet who knows again it's all part of this uh amazing night this is a very historic election both from the very beginning and uh culminating now here in the rain in nashville legislative plaza we're waiting for the vice president and wondering what he exactly is going to say here in tennessee this is how voters voted tonight in the presidential election with george w bush winning tennessee with a million plus votes to vice president al gore's 900 000 plus votes 51 to 48 the first loss as we said since uh vice president al gore first ran for congress in 1976 so his first loss in tennessee his home state well you know you when you you just gotta wonder how that affects somebody who is a you know a political animal like al gore has been his entire life and uh his first defeat at the ballot box uh not only in his home state but of course for the the top prize of all but uh i keep i keep thinking back what you know i keep thinking about what next for a person like al gore i mean we talked about that you know some wild idea floating around that he might actually some people think he should run for governor of tennessee in 19 2002. i guess anything's possible like i said i told you earlier tonight i did had a chance to interview the vice president about 4 30 this afternoon and ask him the question with the election so tight are you prepared to lose

01:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=6960s)

so tight are you prepared to lose and he said absolutely not he was not prepared to lose hadn't even thought about it and i you take him at his word people both candidates running these kinds of race with this much time couple of years plus into these things dedicated they both think they're going to win and you don't think about a loss well interestingly enough uh you know they were talking about that earlier on the network about uh japan we're just listing in real quick pardon me that's okay i hear a cheer from the crowd so it sounds like something here approval i'll just tell you what i was just hearing uh they are having uh they're showing the network up on the screen here one of the other networks and i heard the word uh demand or recount now i have no idea what that uh like i said we're listing into another network in the background here but what's

what's significant uh we can call it that as we've been hearing rock music for the last canned rock music for the last 90 minutes or so and the chair of the crowd is going up and uh it may be that uh there's word that's leaking out now that mr gore is possibly going to say something about challenging uh what's going on in florida well chris we're hearing uh the vote count in florida like i said about six million people voted in that race the separation right now 629 votes well uh you know that's in a state of uh let's see florida is somewhere between 15 and 18 million people and if it's 600 votes uh you know i gotta believe that uh you know the phones are burning between you know top campaign officials the state of florida election lawyers at every level from florida to washington d.c and given what's happened in this campaign over the last several months tonight and uh if there is one final swing i guess again it would be almost poetic justice one more time and i don't know who would make that

01:58:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7081s)

and i don't know who would make that call whether it would be democratic party officials where the vice president himself would be the person it has to be the vice president himself uh of course he he's probably getting very very strong uh you know he's he's probably huddled with his advisers those very close to him william daly the advantage of the campaign donna brazile national campaign manager uh chris lehane who we mentioned earlier and of course his wife tipper uh you know if there is some sort of thought at this point about a challenge those are the people that have been uh probably uh huddling over the last uh you know a few minutes uh half an hour i mean again this this this could have all changed in the last 10 or 15 minutes could have all changed since we started talking it's it's been changing since we went on when we went on the separation was about 11 000 votes in florida it jumped down to about a thousand when we started talking and now as i said it is at 629 votes with that's 100 of the precincts and now that doesn't mean that's a hundred percent of the votes that's reported that doesn't mean they've all been tabulated but you can mine the absentee votes also they were saying that there's about uh 2300 uh overseas votes that haven't been counted yet and i'm not sure i think this that number includes all the absentee ballots well you know it's just again it's just it's it's so fast and furious at this point at that figure 600 that just uh uh you know i i've got to believe that there are some people who are very strongly urging the vice president if he hasn't already made that kind of decision to challenge that if those figures are correct what we're hearing in florida and like we said earlier that may be what is being discussed behind the war memorial because it seemed that uh the decisions whatever had been made of the vice president would not have left lowe's vanderbilt hotel would be a much better place for them to make these kinds of decisions so between the ride from west end over to the legislative

02:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7200s)

from west end over to the legislative plaza it sounds like the things changed in florida and maybe changing what we're going to hear the vice president say tonight if we hear him at all well and there's some sort of chant that's going up in the crowd right now i can't really uh can't really make it out let me just take a look and see if i can see if there's any kind of i can't really make it out what they're saying but i think that uh have you had a chance to listen in to see what abc is saying at this point as we were coming to you abc was looking at the numbers of their raw data and it was at about a thousand vote different so they were looking at that they were talking with the officials about the possibility of a challenge and they were saying too that it would be up to the vice president he would be the person to decide to do that and that they were anxiously waiting to hear what he had to say here in nashville as to whether he was going to challenge this or at least have the numbers looked at well and again it just uh i i think for for anyone watching this right now it's it's it's a history in the making it's been that way for several hours and this is just one more element in it that will uh you know people you know will remember for the rest of their lives i mean i remember seeing you know as a very small kid again the 1960 election and uh wondering you know asking my father you know who won and uh you know that morning when we went off to kindergarten or whatever whatever it was i remember when i was in school just just barely and you know my father said i don't know they're they they're still counting it's very very close well it's one of those really really tough decisions i mean i i've read through my history books and in nineteen bob you were there i was there in 1960 when when uh richard nixon lost to john f kennedy he

was going to challenge the election and dwight david eisenhower talked him out of it uh historians will tell you that the richard nixon regretted it ever and to the day he went to his grave said that jack kennedy stole that election

02:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7320s)

that jack kennedy stole that election now it's going to be a tough decision because it looks two ways if there are problems they need to be looked at on the other hand if you're on the republican side you're going it's a sour grapes move you lost take it like a man and move on so it's a very tough decision oh yeah and and again it if you know uh we we can only we we can only speculate that sometime within the last 15 minutes 20 minutes that uh you know these these phone calls came through from people in florida and got to the vice president because it's been almost an hour i believe since uh we were first told that uh the vice president would be here in 20 minutes so uh well he's been there a while we've we saw his motorcade arrive it's probably we've been talking to you for 10 or 15 minutes now and he would have been there about five as i was saying earlier uh we released we were talking to cnn and cnn officials are reporting that the vice president indeed called uh governor bush and congratulated him on the win now whether he can see the defeat i'm not so sure but the words were that he congratulated him on his win uh what he's going to say to this crowd may have changed between then and now well again and if that was uh that that phone call appears to have uh come before they may have learned what was going on in florida i'm also interested in knowing i haven't had a chance to look at uh how the rest of the electoral map has uh has worked out uh wisconsin and iowa and oregon i believe those were the last remaining states wisconsin and oregon still too close to call iowa went to vice president gore so i'm trying to do the math here again it's 2 30 in the morning but it it still comes down 271 and 249 with those two states still outstanding and even if the vice president won those last two states it wouldn't be enough so it is it is still all with florida but then if it becomes two electoral votes i mean i i i don't think there is another election in the united states history that is this close

02:04:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7440s)

united states history that is this close an electoral uh college and certainly that's what brings up another another issue i mean the whole electoral college if somehow somehow mr gore were to you know have a there was this great reversal at this hour of challenge or perhaps uh if it's already down to 600 votes and is florida totally counted at this point says percent but that the the people in florida were saying that means that the precincts have reported in uh it's not sure that that will be the final number uh so they have them whether that's the final number or not but they're they're reporting 100 percent with that number and can you imagine all the the places in that state a very large state the third or fourth largest state in the union where there could have been some errors uh not only in florida but perhaps some of these other states where it was just so so close and you know and you're talking about one vote one vote per per precinct and you know we've heard about people who were able to vote in certain parts of the country i'm sure that occurred possibly in florida whether that would have had any change in the outcome who knows but when it gets to be this close if you're still talking 600 votes uh you know overall the possibilities are endless over over the country it's roughly 90 plus million people voted and it's a 600 vote difference it's going to decide the election yeah i mean it you know there are still some places which vote by paper some places have have trouble with computers uh and generally these are these are no more than just a story or two uh a couple after the main story saying that uh you know so and so has won but when it's again this close all those things that people are going to be uh coming out of the woodwork perhaps the next few days in a variety of states and saying well you know you know he had this or that problem so

02:06:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7561s)

you know he had this or that problem so who knows and again we're just in a waiting period here this this crowd seems to be buoyed a little bit by uh some of this news which is being reported again they're putting up the networks on the big screen here and they've also stopped the canned musics and that's been going on here for about a half an hour so uh you know it's uh it's it's still one of those things we're just we're just

waiting here in the rain to see if uh what mr gore is gonna do well part of the reason he may be waiting we're just finding out now that the five precincts in dade county in dade county florida that's miami are now being recounted according to county officials because of quote discrepancies we don't know what those discrepancies are but five precincts are being recounted in the county as we speak any idea on the number of votes in those precincts haven't got that all we know is that those precincts are being looked at again dade county uh well certainly five precincts would uh would add up more than 600 there's i think 65 precincts i believe is what they were saying in florida that sounds low to me but i thought that was the number that they were using earlier that there were 65 precincts in the state uh yeah that that i i would guess that is probably a figure at least for uh the county or or section of of my aunt the miami area we're looking at the overall uh popular vote too and comparing it again to the 1960 race uh it looks like it's going to end up being uh of in in the range of about 250 to 300 000 vote difference i think the 1960 race john f kennedy won by about 100 000 maybe 112 000 bob so it's very close to that same thing governor bush leading with about 250 to 300 000 in the popular race of course the electoral the electoral vote in the uh 1960 race was

02:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7681s)

1960 race was was nowhere no uh this close i i believe there was almost now there was texas and illinois that put him over the top so again we're so the folks out there are getting the word that we're getting too they're they're aware that something is happening here whether it means anything to the outcome something is right it's that last i mean last shred of uh you know some kind of hope perhaps uh but it's uh you know again it was it seemed like people were well there's a roar [Applause] again i can't tell you exactly what that is for they are watching as we say another network on the big screen here and obviously it is uh is getting quite a cheer from the crowd out here and again it's uh it's coming from watching one of the networks on the big screen out here at legislative plaza we might want to go back to see what abc is saying at this point let's do that chris that's a good idea we'll come back to nashville let's go back to abc as they continue their coverage to find out more about what is going on in florida at this hour wise has defeated the incumbent governor cecil underwood in west virginia i beg your pardon i went through uh north dakota very quickly and i'll come back to it in a second in montana we project that the winner is the lieutenant governor judy march that was an open seat republican governor mark roscoe was retiring that is held by the republicans in montana we predict and that's judy martz have just uh done that i apologize let me go to utah we project that the incumbent governor mike levitt has held his seat he's been seeking a third term in delaware which was an open seat the democratic governor tom carper was running for the senate we project that stays with the democrats ruth ann minor is the democratic governor elect

02:10:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7801s)

minor is the democratic governor elect there she was the lieutenant governor in missouri uh or missouri depending on how you pronounce it in the state itself um we believe that is still too close to call that's between the state treasurer bob holden and republican james talent that's an open seat that's democrat governor mel carnahan seat you know he was running for the senate and we have already projected that mr carnahan and mrs carnahan are going to be elected to the senate and here's what it looks like at the moment the governor's map seven democrats and two republicans mark halperin you're about to say something well just you know in as we heard from dean and terry in their respective cities and and talking to people throughout politics uh in the media there's clear you know concern and confusion and and uh interest in why it is that these numbers in florida from the secretary of state are so close and again increasing uh speculation about where there might be additional votes that could make up whatever the difference is the small difference we're talking about now on this website is clearly could be made up in any number of ways by al gore the big difference that we were looking at earlier 30 000 votes or so that's not the kind of uh margin that could easily be challenged i think and we believe i think currently that the large margin of votes is the one that is real i think well you're putting me in a position again again we've talked about voter news service and how it counts votes um different than the secretary of state welcome back to our coverage here in nashville we're going to go back to war memorial and the legislative plaza news 2's chris brown krista the information we are now getting is that 27 different precincts 27 in florida are now being recounted that's what the cheer

was about because of discrepancies we don't know what those discrepancies are we also can now tell you that vice president gore apparently has taken back his concession so they are now apparently looking at the possibility of challenging this or

02:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=7921s)

the possibility of challenging this or at least looking at what happens while these sports are being relooked at we're going to run out of adjectives to describe what is going on seriously i mean you can use unbelievable you can use amazing you can it's it's remarkable uh again it is you know i don't know if anybody's still up watching this but if they're not they're missing an unbelievable show it is official we're now getting the word from the campaign as well i mean their vice president has rescinded his concession let's just go back over some of the things that have happened tonight at 8 o'clock or thereabouts florida went to the bush went to our went to go for campaign and you know all the networks followed in line uh you know one may have called it a few seconds before the other and then an hour later and you know you saw all these people around here hugging and there was almost astonishment on some people's faces here not not thinking not thinking that they were going to win florida and then of course it goes back in the undecided and then you know we go through all this uh until just about an hour ago an hour and a half ago when it uh just appeared that mr bush had eked out a 271 electoral votes and then of course uh you know we go through that hour we're just kind of waiting for mr gore and then all of a sudden our mr gore makes his concession speech and then he calls him again or makes makes his phone call and congratulates him on the win now he's and is apparently ready to drive has driven to the legislative plaza ready to concede he wouldn't be over there if he wasn't and changes his mind because new information so they're huddled behind the war memorial somewhere probably in the bowels of the legislative plaza trying to figure out their next move yeah they're probably the only dry people around at the moment but uh yeah that's uh that i mean this is just remarkable remarkable stuff i'm gonna take a look here we have doug haddaway who is down in the uh talking to reporters at this point uh off the stage and we are going to try and make our way

02:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8041s)

and we are going to try and make our way down there possibly if we can um bob why don't you take it for now go head on down let me go see if i can at least find out something and i'll be back up here when i can so give me a minute or two at least and because we're tied in up here with the with the camera so i'm gonna have to unhook and go down there and see what i can find out all right go and see what you can find out from the campaign officials at legislative plaza the crowd seems to be a bit re-energized the rain looks like it is stopped a bit as we try to figure out exactly what's going to happen if the campaign 2000 is indeed going to end tonight if there's going to be a challenge if there's going to be a concession speech we don't know what's going on in austin presumably they're unaware of what's happening here well they're probably aware of it by now but they're trying to figure out what the move is there there's nothing going on in austin that's where governor george w bush was to at some point early this morning come out and make his acceptance speech his congratulatory speech to a crowd there the crowd there has gotten quiet because nothing can take place there until a decision is made here in nashville by the vice president vice president al gore as to whether these votes in florida are indeed challenged at this point we are being told officials in florida 27 different precincts are being re-examined being recounted because of quote discrepancies we don't know what those discrepancies are what the problem is with those and it may not change the outcome but we do know that those precincts are being examined and recounted we are told that the separation the final count in the state of florida is 600 votes and that is in a vote total of about 6 million for the state so the margin of error is a possibility that there could be enough errors to make up the difference the 600 vote

02:16:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8160s)

to make up the difference the 600 vote is not that big a difference when you're talking 6 million as the total there you see some of the folks some of the news photographers and other news personnel who have been waiting all evening at legislative plaza trying to get a word from the vice president about whether he's going

to come out and concede they are now apparently trying to get a word from some of the campaign folks to find out what the next move is going to be here in davidson county here in nashville can't make out what's being said apparently the crowd has gotten quiet as some kind of announcement is being made to the crowd over the pa system and whatever it was it was to their liking pictures from the legislative plaza some more announcements being made down there as they try to figure out the next move two states in the country still not projected yet tonight they are wisconsin and oregon they wouldn't make a difference florida is going to decide the presidency and at this point uh it looks like it might be up in the air for about the third time tonight it is ten minutes till three in the morning and a crowd at legislative plaza the gore headquarters for what was planned to be a victory speech and then looked like it was going to be a concession speech has gotten re-energized over announcements taking place down there chris bungard is our reporter down there he's trying to get some information from gore campaign officials who are sequestered underneath the legislative plaza as they are deciding the next move by the vice president in 1996 of those that were counted in the ten days sounds like what's going on in legislative plaza they are recounting what happened uh in florida uh the recount of the

[02:18:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8282s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8282s)

uh in florida uh the recount of the votes the different precincts that are being re-examined in florida don't know how long that process will take it's taken several hours just to get the final total in florida and it may take a while longer before they get the final recount done let's go back to chris bengal chris you get a chance to talk to the gore folks okay uh we just got back he's out of breath take get a breath okay we just talked to doug haddaway who's a national campaign spokesman for for mr gore and he says that he doesn't know if mr gore is still here but under florida law this is very interesting i don't know if the network has touched on this by law florida law if the the final margin is less than one half of one percent by law there has to be a recount in florida so you know we can do the math here and it's obviously 600 votes that's way less than one half of one percent exactly in fact it probably is up to uh you know my rough math at this hour is probably somewhere between five and ten thousand uh votes but that's just a guess at this point he is his cell phone just died a lot of cell phones have out here tonight in the rain and of course being on all the time and we're also being told that uh he's trying to find out from his people exactly what is going on if mr gore is still here uh he could not confirm he did not confirm that uh mr gore had made that second phone call to mr bush and saying well sorry i don't really mean to concede that's being reported on cnn yeah i i've got to believe that that probably happened it's just a doug uh like i said his cell phone died so that's what we know at this point uh i'm ready for questions i think i've uh caught my breath a little bit here bob sorry chris i was getting some information uh what we're now being told is that as the numbers keep moving around in florida that the the number right now is that mr bush has a little bit bigger than before 1 210 vote lead that's still in a total

[02:20:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8403s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8403s)

210 vote lead that's still in a total vote of over 6 million would not be less than one half of one percent that's that's what we're hearing uh and i i'm i'm amazed that that that hasn't been uh mentioned much before now i i had not heard that until we just talked to uh doug haddaway the goers national spokesman just just a few moments ago so uh again uh as we take a breath here in the rain it's just uh it's it's gone from again we're back to uh you know no no adjectives that we know of can describe what is going on at this moment in the rain at nearly three in the morning here in nashville well what this means and i would assume what they're discussing is that the vice president may not have to do anything uh except not concede yeah if he does nothing we may not hear from mr gore uh who knows if he does nothing and florida law says that there has to be a recount if it's less than one half of one percent and that is where it stands right now he does nothing they they do the recount and if the numbers stay the same tomorrow sometime he concedes or if it changes i think the only thing that you can count on is is well you can't count on anything uh but the only thing that you might expect is at some point you know within the next couple of hours mr gore may come out here to address these people who've waited in the rain these are his hardcore supporters most of them campaign workers uh there are several cabinet members from the clinton administration uh these are the tireless uh supporters that have been with mr gore for uh you know for some of them perhaps for almost 24 years in his

political career and they're the ones left here and it's just you know they're the ones who've gone on this roller coaster ride and just when you know we were just all over but the shout and if there was ever a term that probably describes this just when it was all over with the shouting all of a sudden the shouting changed did doug had a way to give you any any

02:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8520s)

did doug had a way to give you any any kind of clue that the vice president would indeed be coming back at some point no no he didn't he was he literally again we have the old cell phone problem and uh he was going on what some other people were telling him and he was trying to find out exactly what was what was happening but he also was aware of the for was the florida law about the you know one half of one percent less than one half of one percent the secretary of state has to have a recount so you can presume the vice president his advisers whatever whatever legal staff he has together are conferring with officials in florida to find out the exact reading of that law and then trying to determine that their next course of action whether that is to do nothing and just let florida law go into effect or whether they have to make some kind of next move yeah and again it's like we talked about a few minutes ago before we ran down and talked to doug hattaway you have the uh you know you have election lawyers with the f's fec i'm sure are being consulted uh you know it's you know in this rain it's just it's not mass confusion but it's just still i i cannot get over the the the fact that we're on the verge of a concession speech a phone call was made to george bush from al gore congratulating him on the win the motorcade was here uh the vice president was ready to go on and and and somebody somewhere said wait a minute and then everything changed and that's where we are right now so to say uh again i i would only suspect that we will hear from the vice president at some point in the next hour to to just give these supporters something again we go back to 1960 and i believe that even richard nixon and kennedy they didn't make their talks to next morning uh i want to say about three o'clock yeah i'm i'm guessing a little bit but it was early in the morning yeah so that's where we stand right now and if you don't mind i am going to find my

02:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8640s)

if you don't mind i am going to find my umbrella and also my raincoat so i can get that back on and i'm also going to try and find out a little more information about what we have down here one other quick question for you go have you seen any state officials former governor mcwhorter any other democratic officials down there tonight uh you know you you would think that uh governor mcwhorter would be one of the people who would be out here uh talking to the press uh because he's not only a a close he's a poor advisor but he's a third cousin and he's always been very close to albert as he calls him we're going to try to get more information back here chris for the time being we're going to go back to abc news when we get more information and they clarify things we'll come back to you stay dry that's it for here in nashville for now it won't be possible we're going to go back to abc news and we'll be back as soon as we get more new information here 471 to mr bush 242 to mr gore oregon iowa and wisconsin have not yet reported in but if we can go back to the popular vote in florida uh you'll see with 99 percent of the precincts reporting look at the lower numbers down there it's 2 million 890 0.91 mr bush 202 million one thousand nine hundred and twenty two ralph nader uh ninety six thousand four hundred and thirty three and pat buchanan george stephanopoulos seventeen thousand three hundred and five based on mr buchanan's performance everywhere else in the country that's a pretty high pretty high and so that would lend credence to the democrats complaints perhaps if the belt was much too confusing for some of their people and perhaps all of those will be impounded in the recount but i cannot believe layman's attitude here i cannot believe that you can win an election on a ballot which people have punched and gone away if other people have punched it correctly well i've i've i know of no situation like this before i suppose if you have a wave though of people people peter who come up to the board of elections and sign petitions signed sworn affidavits that they meant to vote for um al gore not for pat buchanan that could provide

02:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8760s)

not for pat buchanan that could provide some sort of evidence that's for the lawyers to figure out yeah and mark halperin i apologize i'm doing this to you again have we some evidence that lawyers have already moved out into these various uh states around the country where this where there may be other issues no one has said that to us explicitly but as i said earlier we were told in advance that the campaigns would be primed to do that and i think that i know that they've already certainly started to look at as as terry said i think they they're familiar with the florida law about an automatic recount if the returns are within a half percent and so if the lawyers aren't there yet they'll be there soon assuming the vice president decides to go forward with something like this well i'm going to take uh just a brief pause on this for just a moment get cookie roberts into action here again because cookie one thing that that has been settled to a greater extent tonight though not completely as the house of representatives can you bring us up to date we'll get the graphics up from the control room just in very general terms about what the makeup of the house looks like based on the information we have so far well it looks like we'll get the graphics you're still waiting uh on several seats which are too close to call uh some even on the east coast which we are still too close to call and then there are california seats which are still up in the air including the one of james rogan who was one of the house impeachment managers against bill clinton and he's had the hottest race in the country uh and so so far tonight it looks like the republicans will have 216 seats out of the 218 they need for a majority democrats 209 seats but as i say there is still lots of seats too close to call and these california seats which we have been keeping an eye on for the last several weeks in fact one california seat has already switched from republican to democratic that was an open seat because tom campbell the congressman the republican congressman ran for the senate by the way there are quite a few of those of peter

[02:28:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8881s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=8881s)

those of peter where uh rick lazio here in new york bob franks and in new jersey tom campbell lots of members of the house decided to run for this by how much no okie doke now i want to try bringing people up to date on on some of the propositions and the referendums that were on the ballot around the country at the moment i'm not quite sure in what order they're going to come up here but let's look first at massachusetts this was a a question a proposition is which would determine whether the state income tax should be reduced it would cut the state income tax rate from 5.85 to five percent over three years and i believe that was actually passed 60 percent to 40 percent in michigan uh in michigan and in california with these authorization of school vouchers for private and religious schools they were slightly different in each case they were part of an immensely tough campaign by the proponents of vouchers and the opponents of them in fact in the overall michigan political picture it may be that vouchers streamed people in uh to the system to vote at the senate level at the presidential level but vouchers has been defeated in michigan in colorado this was an amendment to require background checks for purchasers of guns at gun shows a similar ballot is on measure is on the ballot in oregon and you can see that this requirement for background checks and gun shows pretty much to bring it in line with the way it is at retail gun shops around the country was very much approved by 70 percent in colorado there was also an amendment to legalize marijuana use for medical reasons uh chief batter supporter of that measure was a california-based americans for medical

[02:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9000s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9000s)

california-based americans for medical rights and you can see that past those somewhat more narrowly there was a referendum in nevada which seeks to amend the constitution to provide that only a marriage between a male and female person shall be recognized and given effect in the state and that passed overwhelmingly 70 percent to 30 in arizona where urban sprawl is just astonishing they have been losing an acre of desert an hour for many years in arizona it's one of the most sweeping of all the sprawl initiatives in the country and there were several this would require cities and counties of more than 2 500 residents to adopt 10-year growth limits and force developers to pay for roads and schools and other services to new subdivisions and this passes with a vote of hit a bigger pardon help me here this is a yes vote on this i'm not altogether sure uh let me just read it again to be careful let me come back yes actually attempts to limit urban sprawl so the yes vote has been defeated here by the no vote so urban sprawl will continue uh in the state of arizona in which many of its residents complain bitterly about what is happening to its state which of course

is one of the fastest growing uh in the country another proposition in arizona would require english only in the public schools um in many ways the most the highest profile ballot on the initiative to end a bilingual education and people were in favor of that by 63 to 37 percent and i think that is the end of it for now uh one other in alabama voters on tuesday repealed the state century old ban against interracial marriage um an unenforceable but as everybody knew embarrassing throwback uh to the state's

02:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9120s)

uh to the state's segregationist past lynn shir peter um okay we're about to make a presidential call hang on a sec please in the state of wisconsin we're now able to make a presidential projection in the state of wisconsin and we now believe that the state of wisconsin is going to go for mr gore eleven electoral votes there voted for the democrat in the last three elections i need not tell you it was very competitive throughout the evening a lot of independent voters in wisconsin thirty percent of them were independent but there is now no way george there's no way to win this without going florida the whole whole ball game now is florida whoever wins we now project that iowa is going to go for mr gore we project that in iowa mr gore is going to be the winner of the presidential campaign in iowa these have suddenly come upon us here seven electoral votes state voted democrat in the last three election this is one george of the dukakis six one of the dukakis six and when you want to explain that again for our early morning audience the the the george w bush campaign made a special effort in in several states um washington oregon minnesota iowa wisconsin west virginia which michael dukakis won back in 1988 bill clinton won twice but they thought they could be competitive competitive inn they won west virginia but it looks like right now al gore according to our projections has won wisconsin iowa and minnesota and washington oregon is still hanging out there if you look at the map now peter it's it's kind of amazing you can see alcohol right and al gore can win oregon it only gets into 267. um and the same thing with with george w bush florida is the entire ball game right now and according to our latest numbers uh george bush is leading by about 906

02:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9240s)

uh george bush is leading by about 906 votes according to the latest projections and that that's what it'll come down to um and the recount we don't know how long it'll take but it certainly will take well into tomorrow so at five minutes after five on the day after the election mr gore has 260 electoral votes and it's george so rightly points out if he won oregon with his seven electoral votes it would still not be enough mr bush has 246 he can win oregon and he won't make the difference to him so in some respects it doesn't matter but all how oregon goes at the moment on which we encountered so much recounts in island that's true um but it all comes down to florida let's take a look at the popular vote uh throughout the country at the moment uh the board i'm looking at suggests that currently mr gore is still slightly ahead by a couple of hundred thousand votes with 47 million 689 mr bush 47 million 430 and let's take a look at the popular vote in florida now that it's all down to florida no questions asked whatsoever for mr gore two million nine hundred and four thousand four hundred and three for mr bush two million nine hundred and five thousand three hundred and ninety we will do the math on that very quickly for me but uh a slight tick up here for mr bush little under a thousand votes a slight tick up there for mr bush but that is not the issue because we already know when it is less than half of one percent in the state of florida okey dokey who is it please jamie wilson on the phone the executive director of the republican party in florida can you hear me good morning peter how are you uh we're as fascinated by this as we can possibly be what do you think is going to happen is there's going to be an official recount right well there will be an official recount peter uh first of all i would like to say that we have won this race the next president

02:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9360s)

we have won this race the next president united states can be george w bush we have to go through the process now of an automatic recount here in florida but uh we have won this state and once we go through the recount i think we will find that the numbers will be identical to what they are and that george w bush will be elected with the help of florida why are you so confident well because the votes have been tallied we're

uh we've been keeping pretty good tally as have you uh on the votes coming in and uh look while no one is overly confident uh we uh we believe that the votes have been counted correctly and that uh once this recount is over that we'll find that the the vote count is the same mr wilson have you heard the complaint from some democrats that they actually thought they were voting for mr gore and they ended up voting for mr buchanan punched the wrong hole well peter there's a lot of speculation about a lot of different things at this point right now a lot of it we're putting in the rumor mill column uh and the uh you know and the part of that the democrats are going to do a lot of uh strange things between now and the time this recount is finished and we're just going to have to play this out and we're convinced that when we do the secretary of state's office will uh will certify this election from florida for george w bush have you have you yourself or or your team come upon any irregularities in the state of florida tonight uh no none that we can talk about that and i'm not saying that we we have found any i'm not the point is no we have not we have not found any we have not heard any uh complaints from our side about irregularities like that now we believe there's now a 987 vote difference in florida do you agree with that we've got a few hundred more than that peter but it's not anything uh um you know it's not too much more than that and do you have any reasonable expectation that the absentee ballot is going to break your way to any degree that hasn't already been taken into account well uh the ones that are outstanding uh that you've been talking about for a while on your network of the uh overseas service folks uh those normally go our way you've seen by

[02:38:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9482s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9482s)

those normally go our way you've seen by by history that military voters normally vote in favor republicans by absentee ballot and we're expecting that that will probably uh increase our margin a little bit and then we'll add a few more votes to it what do you know about the modalities of the recount itself do you know when it'll begin have you had the vaguest idea how long it'll take do you have any idea who's going to be involved well there's a lot of question about that right now it will begin almost immediately like tonight there well we're obviously uh nobody's gone to bed yet around here and uh there there's a lot of work preliminary work being done on it i believe that the recount effort will begin sometime later today and but i'm not sure exactly whether we would be finished with this uh today or whether this would go into tomorrow or not you realize of course that the entire election now comes down to your state uh yeah we sure do you've just seen us call two states the only one that's outstanding is oregon it won't make any difference so it's all it's all in the hands of florida now right that must send chills up your spine uh well that's a it's quite a heavy burden but it's one that we uh we carry great we will carry greatly being able to say that this is the state that put george w bush over the top have you talked to governor jeb bush at all this evening well i have not specifically spoken to him we've had our chairman here in in towns has spoken him quite a few times and uh he cannot be thrilled about matters at the moment well look uh you know first of all the networks we believe called this race much too early in the evening for uh for vice president gore then it was in limbo for a long time and then right at the last minute was called for us and then uh now we're we're finding ourselves in the in the current situation which we think will be resolved uh in our favor but point being is that it has been an awful long night i would assume that that our governor jeb bush along with uh every other floridian and republicans everywhere are you know obviously concerned about the

[02:40:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9600s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9600s)

you know obviously concerned about the outcome but we're very confident peter that once this is finished we will have a president named george w bush the white house well i'm grateful you're giving us the time is there anything you think we've missed in trying to assess what's happening in florida this evening i don't know did you vote absentee do you have a summer home here no i don't but i can certainly see how hard you're looking i appreciate you giving us the time you bet thanks very much thank you the head of the republican party in florida this evening um the the latest thing that's been given to me uh here is what we described sometimes described as the tick tock of mr gore's evening this is just sort of a chronology of what happened he did call mr bush and concede uh he was two blocks away from the war memorial in nashville when his aide got a page asking him to call michael hooley uh one of the campaign officials wooly told him what the secretary of state website had actually said that's the website we were pointed at by our political

director mark halperin pointed out at the discrepancies that existed between the secretary of state's website uh and the the vms the voter news service collection issue they then held at the war memorial they changed their minds then mr daley called don evans who is remind me i'm going blanket mr bush is chairman in in in and counterpart mr gore called mr bush again and as you heard uh dean reynolds or terry moran they're referring to it from one of the campaigns thank you very much you can forget about the concession 20 minutes ago mr gore closed the door and went to bed if not to sleep he went to bed his aides have no idea what he will do tomorrow and it's exactly the same in the republican camp tonight we do not know that mr bush has gone to bed certainly his chairman in the republican committee still is pretty energized at the moment but we do know that the great crowds that were gathered there in austin and in nashville have dissipated in the late night rain and gone home to their beds

02:42:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9722s)

and gone home to their beds if not to sleep for another evening so um you really want you'd like to have another look at mr daily i'm very grateful our producer says he's just trying to help i suppose the question i'd like to know the answer to if it's possible is when the secretary of state if we have the vaguest idea is actually going to come and make catherine harris the official announcement of where that she's going to hold a recount or do we need the official announcement that she's going to hold a recount well i mean i think there's a little ambiguity here because until you see the final numbers and as we've seen the numbers are still coming in you don't know whether it will be within that half percent that makes it automatic it is it is currently at 987 votes the difference it is certainly within the higher right so we remember wasn't so long ago when it was 30 000. so it could bob outside that i suspect that even if it did that we might still have some sort of request for a recount from the gore campaign after all this but uh jamie wilson said before you talked to him on the air that he thought this would happen relatively soon uh and clearly i don't think anybody wants it to go slow but as we've talked about who knows what this will be confined to will this be confined to simply a recount of the current ballots or will it be a full-fledged investigation and will it go beyond florida the democrats are already telling us about more and more things they claim to be finding about other possible irregularities here errors other things could have affected the development you know these people you and george know these people better than anybody so you know precisely when they're spinning i understand the democratic instinct now to find as many flaws as possible in something that said is this close how much of it do you think you're being spun and how much of it you think is real or is it hard to tell well we talked a little bit earlier about legitimacy and how the important it is that the election result is accepted by the american people this is sort of the worst case scenario two campaigns who hate each other and talking to campaign aides on both sides no love lost very harsh feelings and this is an uncontrolled situation the rules the game aren't very clear we're dealing with a big state a big diverse state which a rich political tradition and so i think uh you know

02:44:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9840s)

tradition and so i think uh you know it's going to be hard to know how to police this and obviously everyone's going to descend on florida and try to find it but in this media age there's going to be as many stories as there are websites that want to print them about what might have happened on both sides before we have no idea what the websites we're doing tonight but we had pretty good time getting a lot of confusion on the networks themselves i look here at new florida department of state numbers which say mr bush two million nine hundred and five thousand seven hundred and twenty three gore two million nine hundred four nine thirty two that's the that's a margin for mr bush of 791 a couple of minutes ago somebody handed me 987 it's just that fluid i think it's what you're trying to say the words the written underneath the total now do you have that on there where it says run off indicated uh no i don't have to be perfectly honest but explain what you mean well i've i've now lost the site but just a moment i had it up before it went again and it said it says underneath we'll see if we get it back not in that version maybe if we can refresh that computer version it said runoff election indicated in other words a recount that's right okay uh i hate to tell you we're also on fire here at the moment yes please go ahead we're not always right but we're very efficient thanks gentlemen very much you know it's a very i mean i i realize at this hour of the night we're probably broadcasting to ourselves

in many respects but it's a very good time for me to say thank you to our local fire department but also thank you the the technical crew here at our headquarters in new york has been absolutely superb someday we should have film of cameramen moving as vigorously and alertly as they do and all of our technical people um all around the country i don't think there's been a flaw tonight of any meaningful nature george phew i'll check check that out um yes to pick up on what mark was saying a little bit earlier i think to pick up on what mark was saying just just a second ago

02:46:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=9960s)

just a second ago okay is my mic on now sorry i guess it's not no i don't think so sorry thank you i was just trying to say picking up on what mark said just just a little bit ago there will be other reports of of problems in the state of florida and we we've gotten some reports from our research that perhaps up in around the tallahassee area tallahassee area state troopers were stopping voters on their way uh to the polls asking for their driver's license kind of these ballot integrity um as you sometimes see the african-american community would be very concerned about that there really is no way to control the various complaints once this gets started in the state of florida i do though believe peter as i said earlier i think once the recount is done i think there will be enormous pressure on vice president gore to abide by that unless there's a wild discrepancy okay thanks very much george i apologize i've come over here because i cannot hear you so now that we've set the place on fire maybe we can change the batteries in my interrupted feedback i'm not here at fine thank you very much peter sam donaldson oh sorry go ahead george i'm just gonna say um you know the congress is also scheduled to come into a lame duck session before thanksgiving and if if this recount isn't done before then you'll see them trying to win on the political debate as well exactly thanks george yes i hear fine now thanks very much sam well peter we're waiting for two more sonic races to be called only two and i think the preoccupation has properly been on florida but let's just review what we're waiting for michigan where senator spencer abrams the republican incumbent hard pressed by debbie stabenow who is the democratic challenger we can't call this too close to call in washington state another republican incumbent slade gorton we don't know whether he's going to come back to the senate because his challenger a former house representative maria cantwell is right there on on his uh tail uh by the way maria cantrell's worth about 40 million dollars and has spent about 10 million dollars of her own money in that race we can just recap for people who've just

02:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=10081s)

we can just recap for people who've just joined us people who've just gotten up just before you sam you know because it it we forget that maybe uh 5 5 30 or 5 o'clock in the morning or 5 30 in the morning in in the east but people are still up in washington state watching that very close washington senate election which is too close to call why don't you talk just a little bit more about it debbie okay maria cantwell well slade gordon uh won a senate seat some time back and he lost it and he recouped it in 1988 and now he's being hard-pressed maria cantwell had one term in the house slade gordon is very friendly to microsoft redmond washington big company maria cantwell made her money with sort of a rival firm not in all respects but in some respects real networks and so it's sort of a battle between these two uh uh giants in in the internet field uh as i say she put 10 million dollars of her own money into this race whether it's going to do any good i don't know mark dayton the department store uh heir who put 10 million dollars of his race defeated rod grams a republican incumbent as we know john corzine in new jersey put 52 million dollars of his money in his race and he won in new jersey and there was one other infusion of money in washington state a lot of the local indian tribes and also indian tribes from elsewhere around the country put money in to defeat slade gordon if they could that's right absolutely so you could say it's a battle of money you could say to the battle of a senator who a lot of people thought uh got a little out of touch some people don't like maria cantwell we just can't call it but peter let me just recap some of the people who were defeated that you might have known about in delaware uh bill roth who was the chairman of the house judiciary committee five-term senator 79 years of age has been defeated abc news projects by tom carper who is the state's governor and in virginia uh george allen a former governor a republican abc news has projected has defeated

02:50:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=10200s)

abc news has projected has defeated chuck robb a two-term senator he was lyndon johnson son-in-law as you know that was a loss for the democrats uh in missouri abc news has projected that the mel carnahan's name he was the governor killed in a plane crash three weeks ago has drawn more votes than that of john ashcroft the incumbent republican senator gene carper his widow we're told will be appointed to the senate but there can be a legal challenge on that before she gets there let's just look at florida bill nelson the democrat has won that seat it was an open seat connie mac a republican retired we think bill nelson defeated bill mccullum a member of the house of representatives and as i said in minnesota rod graham's a republican incumbent was defeated by mark dayton now what this means peter what all this means is that the democrats have picked up two seats at the moment the senate was 54-46 republican two seats if they pick up these two seats that are still in doubt it'll be a tie but no matter which party wins the presidency the republicans will still control the senate okay sam thanks so much i want to ask mark halperin and george stephanopoulos a question that's going to be raised i think all over the country tomorrow by the media critics if not by the general public because you're both pros in this game neither one of you i know really love the idea of projecting elections you'd like it to be counted vote by vote all out across the country i think many of us would do you think this difficulty that we have had in florida tonight is going to call into question in any serious way the way the media now does these things i i think it will again i'm not sure you can you can necessarily control it because there will always be an appetite certainly from the campaigns and from the media to know exactly what is what has happened throughout the campaign i think it's going to be part of a broader debate peter you've seen throughout this campaign over the constant horse race polling of the elections and whether or not one

02:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=10320s)

of the elections and whether or not one the polls are accurate and two whether they have some sort of a heisenberg's effect on the race by by measuring the race so constantly so intensely does it somehow change the race you'll see that that debate as well if anything it's probably going to make all of us though more careful about the projections but i do think it's hard to account for a race that is you know within a thousand votes in a state so long there's so many anomalies as this one had this evening mark i think the press is going to get a lot of criticism for this and i think we have an opportunity fortuitously right now to try to do a little better job maybe than we did tonight in some ways uh in trying to cover this race and as george said in some of the poll driven coverage the whole country now is going to have to deal with the implications of this it's going to be very tough with with this uh recount and with the question of the legitimacy of the next president and i think the press will have to try to play the role we play when we're at our highest and best well it's a dilemma for everybody and uh this is this is a the liveliest tabloid in new york city uh it's been uh it's been very supportive of mr bush he cannot blame them for being caught this evening i don't know what time they started their press run but lots of newspapers have had this dilemma tonight this is a very bright lively widely read tabloid in new york city quite conservative in nature so quite supportive of mr bush so we are going to sign off for now we hope you'll stay tuned for world news this morning with antonio mora and then full live coverage of good morning america with charlie gibson and diane sawyer we're going to leave you with just a few seconds of images from this campaign but thanks to all of my colleagues everywhere and thanks to all of you who spent so much time with this in this unexpected event [Music] next president of the [Music] there's no turning back and i intend to

02:54:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=10441s)

there's no turning back and i intend to be the next president of the united states [Music] the governor of texas george i love him he gave oprah a kiss but he wore my shirt and todd ah don't be a wonk will ya come on no kiss i was hoping for something hey let me ask you did you call oprah a wonk tonight we have good news from sea to shining sea must come down let's win this election [Music] this is heaven all kinds [Applause] i proudly accept your nomination and i stand here tonight as my own man it's time to have new leadership in washington we want to fight for you we trust the hard-working people of america they're for the powerful

we're for the people it's this is a man he's got great numbers i'm beginning to think not only did he invent the internet but he invented the calculator governor bush you have uh attacked my character and i am not going to respond in kind here we are with four days to go on a campaign we're discussing something that happened 24 years ago we hope and believe we have elected the next president united states burchill county county i don't think there's ever been a night like this one this race has come down to the state of florida [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music] [Applause]

02:56:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0o4BgN5e1k8&t=10561s)

[Applause] [Music] [Applause] [Music] you

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